

council. I had no conversation about it with Complainant. Mr. Tomkins preached in Complainant's meeting house the Sunday afternoon previous to the meeting of the council."

At this time the Complainant was confined to his house by illness, and he did not attend the Council. On the Saturday before it assembled, Mr. Tomkins addressed the Complainant the following letter :

LIVERPOOL, Feb'y 5th, 1848.

My dear Brother,—I will preach for you on Sabbath afternoon and evening, if you will take the morning service. I would advise you to call a special Church meeting for Monday evening at 6 o'clock. I think you had better call it to take into consideration the best means of promoting the present and future welfare of the Church over which you preside, and for any other business that may be deemed of importance then. I would earnestly advise you to call this meeting yourself, rather than let the Church or Deacons, which we have advised them to do if you decline; it will come with a much better grace from you. I would intreat you to tender your resignation to that meeting. I shall be glad to render you any service in my power, now or at any future time. We will arrange that you shall have the testimonials of the Church and of us your brethren in the Gospel, so that you may proceed with a firm step into any other sphere of labor. I am convinced that you *must ultimately* resign, or else damage your character forever. Every hour the matter is becoming worse and worse; pray do not delay, trust the Lord, he will provide for you and bless you, if you depend upon him: we will, cheerfully, on Monday before the meeting, and at the meeting, and I think all may be settled for your mutual good.

I am sure I love you and esteem you very highly, for your works sake, and would advise you for your personal good; with these feelings, I unhesitatingly advise you, in a dignified manner, to resign your pastorate of the Church with which you now are connected. Pray, my dear brother, let no pecuniary consideration enter into your mind as a Christian Minister; these ought to be quite secondary.

God will open a door for you, and provide for you. To stay is ruin to yourself and to this Church.

With much affection, believe me, dear brother,

Yours very truly,

FREDK. TOMKINS.

REV. JAMES MELVIN.

Simultaneously with his writing this letter, he prepared a paper, of which the following is a copy :

LIVERPOOL, N. S., Feb'y 5, 1848.

We, the undersigned Deacons and Members of the Congregational Church in Liverpool, are of opinion that it will be for the welfare of the Church to hold a special Church meeting on

Monday next, the 7th instant, at six of the clock in the evening, to enquire into the best means to secure the present and future prosperity of the Church, and whatever business may be then found necessary to transact; also, to seek the advice of a council on that occasion in regard to the above objects.

It is signed by Samuel Kinney, W. H. Freeman, and George McLeod, Deacons, and also by Nelson McLeod and Joseph Freeman.

A document in the hand-writing of the Complainant, of which the following is a copy, is also in evidence :

Whereas a rumour has been circulated touching the moral character of the Rev. Mr. Melvin, our Pastor, the Church has investigated the matter of the report, and is fully satisfied of his innocence.

Signed in Behalf of
The Church,

Liverpool, Oct. 16th, 1847.

JOHN McLEOD, Clerk,

JONATHAN CROWELL, Asst. Clerk.

SAMUEL KINNEY, Deacon.

GEORGE McLEOD, Deacon.

JAMES CLEMENTS, Deacon.

WILLIAM H. FREEMAN, Deacon.

NATHAN TUPPER, Chairman.

On the evening of the 7th February, a meeting of members of the church took place at the meeting house at Liverpool, and it was agreed that Messrs Tomkins, Sterling, David Freeman, and Hilton, should retire and consider the affairs of the church; having done so, they returned with a report written by Mr. Tomkins, of which the following is a copy :

LIVERPOOL, N. S., Feb'y 7th, 1848.

To the Pastor, Deacons, and Members of the Congregational Church in Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

Dear Brethren in the Lord,—We have carefully taken into consideration the legality of the meeting of your Church, at which the Rev. James Melvin tendered his resignation as pastor, and we feel bound to state, in our judgment, that that meeting was a legal one in all respects. We deem it of great importance to pronounce upon the validity of this meeting, as it may affect the future interests of your Church.

In regard to our dear brother in the bonds of the Gospel, the Rev. James Melvin, your late Pastor, with whom we deeply sympathize, it is our very firm conviction that although we believe his usefulness is by no means entirely at an end, in this portion of the Lord's Vineyard, still we think there are other spheres of labor in which he may be much more extensively useful, than in that in which he is now engaged: that is to say, in which he may labor with much greater satisfaction, as far as regards himself; and in which