

PRINCIPAL GRANT

one could call it Jesuitical, and I *know* that it is not considered satisfactory by his enemies, and that they will still fight to try and extrude him. We have to meet a packed Assembly, but we shall do our best. James, it may fairly be argued, has already been frank enough, or too frank for a court, and he is not required to put weapons into the hands of his enemies to be used against him, enemies who have shown themselves incapable of appreciating trust and generous frankness."

So bitter was the feeling that a large minority, of whom Grant was one, would probably have broken up the newly-formed union rather than sacrifice Macdonnell, and with him liberty of thought and speech.¹ A compromise was finally arranged, and the following statement, drawn up by a committee, of which the convener was the Rev. Dr. Jenkins, minister of St. Paul's, Montreal, was signed by Macdonnell, and unanimously accepted as satisfactory by the Assembly:—

"That Mr. Macdonnell, in intimating in his last statement to the General Assembly his adherence

¹ "At the Toronto Assembly in 1876," writes an eye-witness, "the friends of Mr. Macdonnell met at the close of the sederunt. After a general discussion, Grant said: 'If they are determined to push the matter in this spirit, let us demand that they reprove us, and let us have peace and liberty.' Professor MacKerras at once stood up and with great earnestness said, 'No, that will never do; we must maintain our union at all hazards.' The majority of us intimated fervent agreement with MacKerras, and I never heard a second proposal of separation."