

McMillan—the first, under date of 15th January, declaring on behalf of a portion of the Gaelic members of the congregation that unless their demands were complied with to the fullest extent, by the first of July, they would separate themselves from the Church—the other, of date 14th July, signed by 12 of these persons, including one of the Elders, declaring that the set time had now come, and that they would continue no longer. It was also stated to the Presbytery that the most of these persons had absented themselves from religious ordinances. The Presbytery gave a full and patient hearing to all of these who were present, as well as to several, including some of the Highlanders, who were opposed to any change in the order of the services. Parties having been removed, the Presbytery proceeded to deliberate on what they had heard, and unanimously agreed to the following deliverance :

“ Inasmuch as it appears to the Presbytery that allowing the Gaelic services to have the precedence would be injurious to the increase of the Church from the surrounding population, and in many ways tend to circumscribe and lessen Mr. McMillan's usefulness ;—that the Gaelic portion of the congregation, with the exception of a very few aged individuals, some of whom are not desirous of a change, all understand the English preaching and can profit by it while waiting for the Gaelic service, while not one of the English portion of the congregation understand any Gaelic, and consequently could not be profited whilst waiting for the English service ;—and that from the extensive use of the English language made by the whole of the rising generation there is no prospect of any other being permanent in the congregation ;—and considering also that no good or sufficient reason to warrant a change had been brought forward by those who wish it,—and also that the present arrangement has been followed since the organization of the congregation, and is depended on by the surrounding population,—the Presbytery unanimously agree to adhere to their former decision that the English sermon shall be preached first, according to the arrangement heretofore followed :—And in respect to the parties who have subscribed the Paper referred to, the Presbytery find that they have virtually separated themselves from the Church,—and the Presbytery instruct the Session to deal faithfully and affectionately with them to prevail on them to withdraw their signatures from it, and return to their duty,—and they further instruct the Session to use diligence to obtain an addition to the Eldership from those members of the Church who have the English language only—

and to report to the next ordinary meeting of Presbytery.”

Suitable exhortations were then addressed by the Moderator to the several parties.

The deliverance contains the principal grounds on which the Presbytery went, in giving their decision ; but there were many others which had their weight on the minds of the Presbytery.

Upon some of the usual visitation questions being put, all classes in the congregation bore the fullest testimony to the purity of Mr. McMillan's life and doctrine as well as to his faithfulness and diligence in all respect. This testimony was the more to be valued that although several in the congregation appeared to be irritated by his obeying the former decision of the Presbytery, and refusing to make any alteration in the order of the services, yet even these persons were eager and prompt in giving the above testimony.

It was pleasing to see such a large and respectable congregation displaying throughout the day the most marked attention both to the preached word, and the proceedings of the Presbytery ; and it is to be hoped that this visit will do good. By being on the spot the Presbytery had the amplest opportunity of enquiring fully into the matter in which they were called to decide ; and the congregation at the same time had an opportunity of hearing and profiting by the opinions of the several members of Presbytery. Some of the remarks made in the Presbytery cannot but have a beneficial effect on the minds of those who heard them.

Mr. Ferguson, after giving it as his opinion that a change would be injurious to the prosperity of the Church, spoke most feelingly and faithfully of the criminality of professed Christians absenting themselves from the public ordinances of religion, when these were within their reach, and, as they themselves had testified, purely and faithfully administered—of the little reason they had to expect the Divine Blessing to rest upon them, when they presumptuously substituted the private for the public means of grace, in the spirit of strife and contention—and of the sinfulness and injurious effects of the example they were setting before their children, whose immortal souls were committed to their charge ; what could they expect but that their children would become despisers of God's ordinances, and absent themselves from them, when they were taught by their parents both by precept and example to do so, for the most trifling reason.

Mr. Bell's remarks were principally to the effect that the churches under our care were but in their infancy, and as their onward progress and future