

COMMISSION OF SYNOD.

We have been requested to publish the following minutes of the Commission of Synod in the case of appeal from Ramsay, which was before the meeting of Synod in June:

At Ramsay, in the Church there, on Thursday, the twenty-fifth day of June, in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight, at half-past twelve of the clock in the afternoon, the Commission appointed by the Synod to issue the appeal of Miss Baird against the decision of the Session of the congregation at Ramsay, met at the call of the Convener, and was constituted by prayer.

Sederunt—Rev. John Laing, convener; Rev. Wm. McLaren and Rev. John Burton, ministers, and R. Edmondson, M.D., elder. Rev. John Laing was appointed Moderator, and Rev. J. Burton, Clerk. The minute of Synod appointing the Commission was then read. A letter from Dr. Holden was also read, excusing his absence.

The parties in the case were called to the bar.

Miss Baird appeared with her brother, William Baird, who was permitted to appear along with his sister before the Commission. Mr. Andrew Toshach and his wife appeared; also, the Session of Ramsay, represented by Rev. William McKenzie, moderator; Messrs. James Kellough, James Yule, David Wylie, and John Graham, elders.

The Commission proceeded to consider the case *de novo*. Miss Baird then entered her complaint, that a document had been laid before the Session of Ramsay, containing anonymous charges against her character: she laid before the Commission a copy of her original complaint, which upon being compared with the copy as engrossed upon the Ramsay Session book, was found to contain an additional paragraph. Mr. McKenzie explained that he had not professed to enter a copy of the complaint, but simply the substance thereof. Miss Baird proceeded at length to narrate the varied steps in the case as it appeared before the Session, stating her several objections to the proceedings, and laid several documents before the Commission. Mr. and Mrs. Toshach were also heard at length.

Mr. McKenzie and Mr. Graham were also heard on behalf of the Session; after which, it being six o'clock, the Commission adjourned to meet again at half-past seven.

At half-past seven of the clock, upon the evening of the same day, and in the same place, the Commission met as adjourned, and was constituted by prayer.

Sederunt as before.

Miss Baird then entered a formal complaint, in the following terms:

I, Jane Baird, charge Andrew Toshach with malicious falsehood, inasmuch as he did in the month of November, 1866, and in his own house, assert that it was on the recommendation of a certain Mrs. Wyatt, that two children, named James and Mary Ann Rivet, were sent to us from the Ladies' Benevolent Institution, Montreal; which statement is untrue, because the children were sent to us in consequence of a certificate in our favour, furnished by the Rev. Thomas Wardrope, of Ottawa.

June 25th, 1868.

(Signed,) JANE BAIRD.

The following witnesses were then sworn, their evidence taken down, read over to them, and by them subscribed, for the complainant: Mr. John Baird, Mary Ann Rivet, and William Baird.

For the defence, Mrs. Jane Wyatt.

For the complainant in reply, Mr. John Baird and Mary Ann Rivet, recalled; and Mr. Robert Yule.

The Commission also called Mr. James Toshach and Rev. William Aitken, and recalled Mrs. Jane Wyatt.

Miss Baird here stated, that to complete her case, it was as necessary to have the evidence of the Rev. Messrs. Couray and Moore, who were not present.