

MONTREAL, Dec. 19th, 1884.

TO THE SAINTS GATHERED TO-THE NAME OF THE LORD  
JESUS CHRIST.

BELOVED BRETHREN,—

When evil is maintained with a high hand, and the maintenance of discipline in an assembly becomes impossible on this account, separation from evil becomes necessary to the very endeavour to keep the unity of the Spirit. This is that to which at last we are forced, and the evidence of the truth of our statement is before the eyes of all.

The circular of Nov. 29th, signed by the 38, sent everywhere, is the assumption of a party to condemn as false doctrine, what in part is truth long recognized as such among us, in part is a misrepresentation of their own, and the rest of it, what (with full knowledge of it) J. N. D. and others, including A. P. C. himself, have for years gone on with. And on this account to reject the whole ministry of a brother, and to exhort others to reject it, is sufficiently intolerant and sectarian in itself. Against this we had contented ourselves with protesting; but it has been followed by still more extreme and high handed action, against which the only sufficient protest is by action of our own.

In the first place, in defiance of the plainly expressed opposition of a large number, they sent, as from the assembly; a letter of final admonition to our brother F. W. Grant (who had left the city), thus falsely claiming as the act of the assembly what our consciences refused. At the meeting called for this purpose it was attempted to silence as disorderly a number of brethren who had gone out of the prayer meeting a week before, in consequence of an address of A. P. C.'s, laying division and following human leaders at their door, and telling them that praying without repentance as to their evil deeds was hypocrisy. The withdrawal from the prayer meeting had been made quietly and deliberately, as a silent protest, not only against the conduct of A. P. C. at this meeting, but against a constant course of procedure that had been grieving and trying us for many weeks.

Nevertheless those of us so admonished as disorderly, were to take no part in discipline meetings.

The letter went, spite of our protest, to the brother in question, but was refused by him as not really from the assembly, as it purported to be, and then a meeting was called to receive his answer. At this meeting it was stated that the paper then presented to the assembly for their adoption, had been *already* assented to by 45 persons! This kind of canvassing had been

steadily going on and every effort made to influence people *before the professed deliberation began*. The result was that regardless of the opposition of a large number, they again declared as an assembly act, the will of a majority, that F. W. G. was put outside.

They had now established a table really upon new ground, sectarian in character, set up in wilfulness, and where we could not be without bowing to evil, which plainly we could not control.

At a meeting then and there announced for those who dissented from this judgment, and which took place last evening, there were present about forty brethren and sisters. After prayer and conference it was agreed that we should meet next Lord's day in a room on Craig street to remember the Lord in the breaking of bread, in distinct refusal of the table in the Natural History Hall.

Throughout all these sorrowful and dishonoring scenes of several months duration, A. P. C. was ever foremost, the leading spirit of the whole, with Alfred Mace as his support, except in the closing one, when A. M. was absent from the city. They are of course fully identified with the table now at the Natural History Hall, to which they have given its unhappy character.

Our prayer to God is that our brethren elsewhere may be led to a right judgment in this matter.

Affectionately in Christ Jesus our Lord,

JOSEPH ROSS,  
JOHN S. SCOTT,  
E. S. LYMAN,  
W. TURNER,  
ALBERT HAMMOND,  
HENRY HAMMOND,  
J. T. NURSE,  
JOHN JAMES,  
W. H. LOUGH,  
J. J. DUNN,  
ALEX. MINTO,

ROBT. G. MILLER,  
E. H. TRENHOLME,  
V. PENNINGTON, JR.,  
W. H. G. BLATCHLEY,  
JOHN ROGERS,  
ALFRED HOLLAND,  
W. J. INNES,  
HENRY TURNER,  
S. HARRIS,  
ROBERT DIAMOND,  
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