

# A NORTHERN CHURCH GIFT.

## JUDGE AND BELFAST BANKRUPT.

At an investigation yesterday in the Belfast Bankruptcy Court of the affairs of John Culbert, linen merchant, Franklin street, Judge Craig, asked whether the Presbyterian Church, which refused to handle a bequest by the former owner of a licensed house in Monaghan on the ground of morality, was going to hold £100, a gift by Culbert, which, said his Honor, "was certainly tainted money," for it was given by a man who was not in a position to give it. He mentioned that he was himself a member of the Presbyterian body. Mr. H. M. Thompson, for the Crescent Presbyterian Church, said the view of the Committee of the Church was that the money handed over to them did not belong to Culbert, but had been received from various charitable people in England and Scotland and was expressly intended towards a bazaar project. The money, he added, was neither in law nor in morality nor fact ever the money of the bankrupt. His Honor thought this an intelligent view, if it could be successfully presented.

In later argument, Mr. T. J. Campbell, B.L., for the assignees, held that the gift was a fraudulent one, made at a time when the bankrupt was insolvent, with a view to delay, hinder, and defraud his creditors.

### A DILEMMA.

"I notice," said Judge Craig, "that the year of the gift was the only one in which he made a profit." "He was just before he was generous," said Mr. Campbell. "He represents a combination of the hypocrite and the fraud which is very disagreeable," observed his Honor.

It was explained that the money was really handed over as Mrs. Culbert's collecting card as the result of a scheme by her husband sending out boxes of handkerchiefs at a reduced price. Rev. Dr. M'Ilveen, minister of the church, said circulars on the subject were prepared without his knowledge. He found that acknowledgments were made with a stamp bearing his (Dr. M'Ilveen's) name. His Honor exonerated Dr. M'Ilveen, and judgment was reserved.