

had appealed from a sentence of the Presbytery of Kilmarnock suspending him from the office of the ministry for preaching erroneous doctrines. There were various points in which his views were considered to be inconsistent with the standards of the church; but the question respecting the nature and extent of the atonement was the principal matter in dispute. After hearing and considering the case, "the Synod, without sanctioning every thing in the papers and pleadings, approved of the diligence and fidelity of the Presbytery of Kilmarnock—dismissed the appeal on account of the erroneous and inconsistent opinions set forth by Mr. Morison, and his blameable conduct in regard to the suppression of his tract—continued his suspension—and appointed a committee to deal with Mr. Morison, and to report to the Synod."—From this sentence Dr. Brown, one of the senior Professors of Theology, dissented; having in the course of the discussions in the Synod, although disapproving of some of Mr. Morison's expressions, maintained that the whole was a mere war of words. Mr. Morison, after meeting with the committee, disregarded the sentence of suspension, and was at length declared to be no longer in connexion with the United Secession Church.

The Synod, at the same meeting had also before them the case of Mr. Robert Walker, minister at Comrie, charged with holding views in reference to the atonement similar to those of Mr. Morison. In considering this case, Dr. Balmer, the other senior Professor of Theology, said that "he had no great objection to say that, in one view, he conceived of the death of Christ as having a universal reference, and he had no great objection to the expression universal or general atonement. The offer of salvation was unlimited—all men were invited on the ground of the death of Christ; and it necessarily followed, as he thought, that the death or sacrifice of Christ must, in some sense, have been intended for all." On the following day Dr. Brown said "He could not be present on the previous night, and it was therefore necessary, for the relief of his own mind, for him to avow, that the statements made by Dr. Balmer were made with his full knowledge of what they were to be, and had he been present he would have expressed his entire concurrence before the court, and he would likewise have concurred in the sentiment, that he

could not continue in a responsible situation with any comfort to himself, if he had lost the confidence of those who had placed him in that situation." A committee having been appointed to confer with Mr. Walker, such explanations were given by him as were deemed satisfactory by the Synod.

At their meeting in 1842, the Synod had the same doctrines brought under their consideration in the case of two other individuals. 1. Mr. Robert Morison, minister at Bathgate, and father of Mr. James Morison at Kilmarnock, had dissented from the decision which was given in the case of his son, at the meeting of Synod in 1841. A committee was appointed to confer with him in reference to his own views, the result of which was that he was suspended, and a committee was appointed to deal with him still further in reference to certain doctrinal errors with which he was charged. Mr. Morison disregarded the suspension and was in consequence cut off from the body. 2. The Synod agreed to issue a statement entitled "Doctrinal errors condemned by the United Associate Synod" Mr. A. C. Rutherford, minister at Falkirk, dissenting from a particular portion of this statement, was remitted to his Presbytery to be dealt with in reference to certain doctrinal views which he had propounded.

Mr. Rutherford's case came before the Synod in 1843. A sentence of suspension which had been passed on him by his Presbytery, was confirmed; and on his protesting, and declining the authority of the Synod, he was separated from the body. In connexion with the proceedings in the case of Mr. Rutherford, the Synod found cause to be dissatisfied with some doctrinal views expressed by another young minister, the Rev. John Guthrie of Kendal. His case having been immediately taken up, the result was that he also was cut off from the United Secession Church.

At the meeting of Synod in October 1843, an overture was agreed to "That the Synod hold a committee of the whole house, for conference on the divisions in sentiment on doctrinal points agitated in our Churches, and request the two senior Professors to express to the Synod their sentiments on these points." In this conference, Drs. Balmer and Brown delivered their sentiments fully; and their statements were afterwards published. Dr. Balmer declared that "The death of Christ is a true and perfect sa-