

to the congregation at York Mills ; and Mr. Ritchie preached to the same congregation on the following day:—Mr. Leach, to the great astonishment of the good people at York Mills, not appearing at all in the congregation on the Thanksgiving Day. Having up to this time all the functions of the ministry, the conclusion was unavoidable, that they were guilty either of great rashness and precipitancy in renouncing their ordination vows, or of profanely and presumptuously intermeddling with the most solemn and peculiar functions of the Holy Ministry. Mr. Ritchie declared to the Committee of the Presbytery, in answer to a question from them, that on the Sabbath, when dispensing the Lord's Supper, he considered himself a regularly ordained Minister of Christ. According to this declaration, it must have been after this that he came to the conclusions that he so soon after held, involving this among other things, that he was not a Minister of Christ,—and consequently the charge of rashness and precipitancy in casting off his ordination vows was at once brought completely home to Mr. Ritchie. Mr. Leach declined answering the same question which was put to Mr. Ritchie, (No. 5,) but without at all mending the matter, for it is evident otherwise, particularly from his own defence, that the time spent in coming to a conclusion was entirely too short to preclude the charge of rashness, while he clearly threw himself open to the alternative charge of profanely and presumptuously intermeddling with the administration of the Lord's Supper. The very fact of his refusing to answer the question put to him, as to whether he considered himself, on Sabbath, November 13th, a regularly ordained Minister of Christ, will awaken the suspicion, in the mind of every reflecting and impartial reader of the evidence, that he was then under the idea that he was not a Minister of Christ, and that he was consequently tampering both with his own conscience and with one of the most solemn ordinances of our Holy Religion.

The rashness and inconsiderateness, in casting off their ordination vows, with which they were charged, in view of the shortness of the time they took to come to such an important decision, is aggravated by the circumstance, that, after they entertained doubts as to the validity of their ordination, they were at no pains to inform themselves fully on the important questions at issue. In answer to the enquiry of the Committee of Presbytery, it appeared that Mr. Leach did not remember having read anything on the Presbyterian side but Campbell's Lectures on Ecclesiastical History, a work which is not esteemed by some that are competent judges to be very good authority, and at all events certainly does not give a full view of the subject ; while Mr. Ritchie at first did not remember having read anything at all on the subject, but afterwards declined answering the question altogether. The fact is, they were so