

namely, Messrs. John Mason, Robert Annan, and John Stewart, were sent out at the expense of the Synod, to join the brethren on this side of the Atlantic.

The transatlantic mission seems to have been a favorite scheme of this Church, and one which, from time to time, they prosecuted with zeal; for we find them giving great encouragement to the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, in their benevolent efforts to convey the tidings of Christian truth to the American Indians. The Synod at present were about to fit out other three missionaries of their own to Pennsylvania, which prevented them from collecting among their congregations for the special object of the Society; but they ordered their Treasurer to transmit £50 sterling for the sole purpose of aiding in the propagation of Christianity among the Indian tribes.

The Churches of the Seceders, having originated chiefly from the prevalence of error in the Established Church, have been all along distinguished for their fidelity in the preservation of sound doctrine. The General Associate Synod, in particular, on various occasions, had cases of error before them, and in every instance we find them most prompt, zealous, and faithful, in purging their Church where any root of bitterness, of this description, seemed to be springing up among them. So much was this the case, that their opponents in the Establishment, sometimes to shelter themselves from suspicion or accusation of being heterodox, for which there was abundant cause, were ready to ascribe the prevalence of error to the Secession, simply because they found their courts occasionally dealing openly with individuals who were charged with it. Amidst the multitude of erroneous preaching in the Established Church, no notice was taken, in general, of any case; and thus that denomination had sometimes credit for being sound, when there was only silence respecting countless existing cases of error; and the Secession, though perhaps never surpassed in orthodoxy, have been accused of being all unsound, because they publicly judged and condemned every such error as it appeared. Of late years this has been remarkably verified in regard to what is called the Morisonian controversy, of which we may afterwards have occasion to speak. Our United Presbyterian Church has been exhibited by their opponents as being all tinged with Morisonianism, because they have been firm and faithful in expelling from their Church those who avowed such doctrines; whereas it has been stated that in some other Churches, where more worldly policy is practised, such errors prevail to a great extent, their advocates being allowed to pass uncensured. This disposition, among some opponents, to give way to groundless slander,* where commendation would be more appropriate, was felt, in those early times to which we are referring; but it did not operate to induce the Courts of the Secession to remain silent in any case where serious error was taught by any of their ministers. It never could be said of this Church that they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God. They were independent of human applause, preferring the blessing of those against whom men say all manner of evil falsely for Christ's sake.

At the meeting of the General Associate Synod in April, 1762, the Presbytery of Perth and Dunfermline made a Representation of the case of Mr. Robt. Carmichael, minister at Coupar Angus, in reference to certain erroneous views he had been propagating. In consequence, the Synod appointed his appearance before them at their meeting in September next. He appeared accordingly, and admitted, in general, the correctness of the Presbytery's Representation; and he read a paper, maintaining such views as the following:—

“That faith is not the instrument, but a fruit and evidence of justification; that faith is nothing else but a belief of the truth, and not of a thing that has no existence until it be believed; that there is no foundation in Scripture for the universal call and offer of the Gospel, so much contended for; that God

* Let our Free Church brethren take a hint here, although we have no particular reference to them.