

defiance of every principle of honesty and decency involved in such their oath. How very deplorable such conduct is!! Spiritual office bearers, the guides of the congregation in matters spiritual, in matters pertaining to the salvation of the soul, guilty of a wilful breach of their oath; and guilty of the additional sin of inducing all of you who have become members in full communion, to violate your implied oath; as in truth, all that your Minister and Elders have positively sworn to, as forecited, you impliedly did so, when you became members; hence their sin is a double sin. And is not such conduct both in them and you truly fearful and lamentable? If a Lawyer was guilty of such conduct in a court of law, you would all justly reprobate the same, and he would very justly be punished by imprisonment in the Penitentiary, and be rendered infamous, and in which you all would most heartily concur; and do you think that Ministers and Elders of the Gospel should escape a like condemnation? should they not rather be the more reprehensible? I think a Christian would say so, whatever you may, for although you are very religious, I am afraid not a few of you have mistaken religion—as for instance that of Ignatius Loyola—for the Christianity of the Bible; as assuredly the Bible does not teach as Ignatius Loyola did, that it is lawful to forswear oneself!

I have been met with the excuse, that the change in question is a matter of no importance; assuredly the Synod did not think so, when they compel every Minister, Elder and Deacon, to take the hereinbefore recited oath, first, in a positive form, and then negatively: and if a matter of no importance, why should your Ministers, Elders and Deacons have sworn to the same, calling Jehovah to witness that they would adhere to a matter of no importance; how profane!! But every matter pertaining to the Worship of Jehovah is of great importance; the very form in which the service is performed is of the highest importance; whether we therein worship the Almighty reverently or not. One of your Elders promptly replied to my allegation to him, that he had broken his oath, that he had not, and in reply to my question, what he would consider a breach thereof, he as promptly said, "Were I to allow *read* prayers." This was so very prompt, that I feel assured, the Session had agreed that this would be a breach of their oath, and should be by them cited as such; hence I call your attention thereto, and as un-