

impartial narrative of the proceedings of the Synod, with a summary of the arguments on both sides, which will afford all of you the means of judging for yourselves, as to the spirit of the parties, and the merits of their respective views, and principles, in the clear knowledge of what was said and done. In the meantime, I am called to the immediate fulfillment of a more pressing duty to you, my beloved hearers and brethren, and I should be unmindful of the highly responsible situation which I hold to you as your pastor, as well as guilty of disrespect, were I not to render you, in such a crisis, an account of what, as a member of the Supreme Judicatory of our Church in this land, I have done, and the reasons which have influenced me, and the ends which I contemplated, as likely to be promoted, for the advancement of the glory of God, the salvation of souls, and the well-being of our church, temporal and spiritual.

I trust to be able, without wearying your patience, to put you in possession, in a brief and plain statement, of all the information that is necessary to form a right conclusion, and I have only now to crave of you, a candid and impartial audience.

The first, and perhaps not the least arduous part of the task which I have undertaken in justice to you, to myself, and to the cause of truth, is to disabuse those who have been blinded by prejudice and party spirit—misguided by ignorance of the question, whether in regard to facts or principles, or who have been misled by partial and erroneous, views or wilful misrepresentations. I shall endeavour to shew you all before I have done, that much misconception is now prevailing in the minds of even intelligent men in regard to the facts, and that, therefore, there is great need for extreme caution, and even jealousy, in regard to opinions and statements, which are, as usual in such