

The latter have not been the subject of controversy since the decision of the Council. The acquittal of immorality and fraud took away from these their chief significance and weight; for want of discretion without immorality, and incompetency and negligence without fraudulent purpose, are errors so light when compared with those graver charges which affect moral character, that no complaint has been made against the condemnation of the Council, in relation to these. The acquittal claimed could only relate to immorality and fraud.

Again, under the same confusion of ideas, Mr. Davis has failed to notice that the Church did not refuse to rescind, on the ground of the want of discretion and incompetency, found by the Council. They acted on the presumption of guilt, on the higher charges of immorality and fraud, on one of which the Council had given their opinion that he was not guilty, and, on the other, had acquitted him.

Mr. Davis' letter draws from me statements which otherwise I should not make, because I have desired to confine myself throughout, as far as possible, to what I personally know, and also have desired that the Council's decision should rest on its own integrity and the authority of the body from which it emanated; and sad it is to see one of that body seeking to defile their and his solemn act.

Soon after the decision, I learnt from members of the Council, that almost immediately upon the Council proceeding to deliberate on their judgment, it was found that there was a unanimous opinion that Dr. Pryor was not guilty of the immorality alleged against him, which was the first charge brought up. The time occupied by the Council was employed in agreeing on the mode in which the imputation of want of discretion and negligence should be worded, and in deciding on the acts of the Church referred to in the decision, and the mode in which the opinion of the Church respecting them should be expressed. I also understood, that after the close of the meeting, in which the decision of the Council was announced, a number of the Councillors shook his hand and congratulated him. One in particular congratulated him with great cordiality, and after giving his congratulations, added:—"And believe me, Dr. Pryor, the Council in thus acquitting you have acted most conscientiously." I wonder if this could have been the Rev. John Davis. *Council*

It is a humiliating spectacle to see a minister volunteering his aid to crush a brother minister while struggling under a great trial, affecting interests of unspeakable magnitude to himself, his wife, his children, and his friends, especially when to do so he must derogate from his own character for intelligence, or integrity.

Before I conclude this postscript let me fulfil the grateful office of bringing before you the opinions and conduct of Baptists abroad; grateful, because it brings us into an atmosphere of charity and christian kindness, from which, in the consideration of this case, we have been so long banished.

Dr. Pryor having applied to his former Church at Cambridge for admission, they, while confiding in their former long and well-tried experience of him as their pastor, and while respecting the opinion of