

property; our sittings having been by deliberate deed of the congregation, reserved entirely for *their* disposal.

Whatever may have been the wish of any party in the late investigation as to throwing discredit on the character and ministrations of the pastor, it never was *my* wish to say anything as to the efficiency of my elders. Had the expiscation of this been in the eye either of the Protesters or myself, we would have adopted a very different mode of doing it. I am not aware of the Presbytery having put a single question to me as to the efficiency of my eldership. Had they asked my views on that matter, they would have had them. It was with the minister only they felt themselves as having to do, and mutual recrimination was far from my mind. It cost me four years' "dealing" to secure their acceptance of office; and now, after a service of about the same extent, they have uncereemoniously left me. What the Synod may do with them and with me remains to be seen. In the meantime, there seems to be much practical wisdom in the following clause in the specimen of our "Book of Discipline," just published in the supplement to the *Record* for January, 1856: "Ruling elders retain their office for life, except when their demission is accepted, or they are deposed. If they demit their office, the congregation should be very cautious in calling them again to exercise it."

Mr. Gorrie having felt it his duty to come forward as my accuser on this occasion, I shall notice his charges in their order:—

1. Mr. Gorrie is in an error when he states that at the laying of the foundation-stone of Knox's Church in Autumn, 1847, ministers of different denominations had been invited to attend. Whether it ought not to have been so, may be matter of question; but the matter of fact was, as I now state it, that ministers and members of our own Church only were invited to be present. In my address on that occasion, I did advert to the great bar in the way of union with the United Presbyterian Church, and I did so certainly from no wish to stand in the way of union, but exactly the reverse. I have succeeded in my wishes. A respectable minority of that body have, at the last Synodical meeting, publicly advocated my views, and moved for a declaration which, had it been carried, would have greatly smoothed our way to union. The movement is cer-