

binds the United Body to administer all the ordinances of worship in the same manner as they were administered in the two respective bodies before the Union took place. But both Synods, prior to the Union, decided legislatively against the use of instrumental music in God's worship. It is, therefore, a standing article of the United Church, one of the articles of the contract by which they are bound into one, that no organ shall be used in the worship of God. And every Deacon, Elder, Probationer and Minister is required solemnly to "declare that he sincerely owns and believes the *whole doctrine* contained in the Westminster Confession of Faith, as approved by this church, in terms of the Articles of Union, to be the truth of God; and to own *the purity of worship* presently *authorized* and practised in this church—*that* he is *persuaded this worship* is founded upon the word of God, and agreeable thereto, and to promise that he will firmly and constantly adhere to the same, to the utmost of his power to assert, maintain and defend the *same worship*, and to renounce all doctrines, tenets, and opinions whatsoever, contrary or inconsistent with the *said worship*. Now where is this "*authorized*" worship as to praise to be found, if not in the 21st chapter of the Confession of Faith, taken and explained in connection with the last section of the Directory? Where is the evidence to be found of any change having ever been made by the Synod, the only competent body to make it, either in the matter or manner of God's worship of praise, as that is laid down in the standards? I know of none. It will not do to say that the ordination vows are to be taken in the sense in which they are imposed when there is no authoritative meaning attached to them, so far as worship is concerned, but what the words grammatically and obviously signify. Were this allowed, then it might be the sense in which a presbytery, a session, or even an individual understood them; nay, in which they were understood for hundreds of years.

It is "*authorized*" worship that is to be avowed, maintained and defended, and the only authorized worship by praise in the standards is, "*Singing of Psalms with grace in the heart.*" If there be any other authorized, let the standards be changed to mean what is authorized; as the Old School Presbyterian Church of the United States have changed theirs. But let it be remembered that this will be a change in the terms of that contract that now binds us into one body, and will involve a change in the ordination vows that are at present imposed; for how can those who conscientiously adopt the principle of an inspired Psalmody, and oppose, as a piece of Judaism, prelacy and Popery, the use of an organ or any other instrument in the worship of God, solemnly declare that they sincerely own and believe such worship "*to be founded upon and agreeable to the Word of God?*" Impossible! They may not be disposed to rend the church on account of innovations. But, most assuredly, they can never be expected to countenance, much less approve of them legislatively, and still less to own them to be founded upon and agreeable to the Word of God. But I hope there will be no change in the contract that binds the church together, and no change made in her authorized Worship necessitating a change in the present vows imposed upon her officers and ministers. It is to be hoped the church, as a whole, is not ashamed to acknowledge and firmly maintain, as her sentiments, as the Reformed Church of Scotland so nobly and triumphantly did, "that the devotions of Christians," in the words of an eloquent and learned Principal of the University of Glasgow, "that the devotions of christians stand in no need of the outward helps afforded to the Jews; and that the triumphs of all conquering love, the mighty acts of a Redeemer, all