

pulpit, (and so far as my observation goes, it is so in a great measure) one is almost tempted to conclude either that our ministers are not much concerned about our destitution of students and preachers, or that they do not sincerely and practically believe in the efficacy of preaching and praying for the attainment of spiritual objects. Neither supposition is pleasant.

I am, &c,

A WELL-WISHER.

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HISTORY.

BY THE REV. DR. FERRIER, CALEDONIA.

About this time (1770) the venerable Mr. Adam Gib of Edinburgh was anxious to carry a motion in the Synod, in the form of an extended Overture, with a view to publish an Act, "bearing their homologation, and constant profession of the whole state and management of the Secession Testimony," as set forth in various documents, emitted from time to time by the Synod. He assigned the following reasons for this motion—1. Being more than thirty years since the standard of the Secession was reared, it was necessary to refresh the minds of the present generation with a new and complete declaration of the character and designs of their Church; 2. Much opposition was made to their Testimony by their separating brethren and their congregations; and 3. A few years ago, an attempt was made by these brethren to effect a union with this Synod, on a proposal which would have been a virtual dropping of their whole Testimony, which, being keenly taken up by the people, led to many disorderly meetings on both sides.

For these reasons, chiefly, it seemed to Mr. Gib to be high time for the Synod to make a stand, by vindicating their position as a Church, and correcting that spirit of neutrality about the necessity of their Testimony, which prevailed with many of the present generation. The Synod, after considerable discussion, agreed to proceed with this Overture. But as they did not enter into its details, as Mr. Gib wished, he had occasion to protest against some of their decisions, and was dissatisfied with the steps they took in regard to it.

The seeming indifference which the Synod manifested about this Overture, with some other occurrences at this period, induced Mr. Gib to discontinue his attendance on the Synod for a time. At the Spring meeting in 1771, the Synod finding that he had not taken his seat among them, sent a request for his attendance. When Mr. Gib appeared, they inquired into his reasons for absenting himself. On this, Mr. Gib gave in a paper, in which he expresses himself to have been aggrieved, for some time, with the Synod's proceedings, so that he did not see how he could be useful among them, that the grievances, which he did not wish to particularise, were such as required some satisfaction; that he was willing to put up with anything he would feel a shadow of satisfaction, and that the least measure of this was to get his representation engrossed in the minutes of Synod.

After some discussion, the Synod agreed to engross Mr. Gib's paper. At the same time, they expressed their dissatisfaction with him in having so long concealed his scruples, and in withdrawing from them without having assigned any reason.

When the Synod met in August, 1771, they entered fully into this consideration of the Overture, and, after a tedious discussion, they carried by a great majority the motion which follows—"That the Synod lay aside the Overture, because, though they heartily approve of all our received and sworn-to prin