

consider it a calamity if the decisions of the lower courts were reversed by the Assembly. It had been shown that the views of the appellants do differ materially from those of the Church. He thought that while the appellants should be dealt with in all kindness, yet the discipline of the Church must be maintained. The Assembly had the interests of the Church at large to look after. He would like to leave the way open for the restoration of the appellants to membership. His own opinion was that they did not know just what they believed. That they had, it seemed to him, stated one thing and on the same day denied the very same thing. If he held views differing from the body to which he belonged he would refuse to have his mouth muzzled, but would proclaim his views whenever an opportunity was presented.

Rev. W. S. Ball, in seconding the motion, said that he had had a long and pleasant interview with the appellants the evening before, and the paper presented by them bore traces of this interview. He took a very tender interest in the appellants. He was present twenty years ago when many of them were born again. He believed that if dealt with in the terms of Dr. Cochrane's resolution they would be brought back into the fold. It was somewhat unfortunate the influence which had been shaping their course of late. He believed that if they had continued under the tender influence of Dr. Smith the difficulty would have been settled.

Principal MacVicar considered that Dr. Laing's resolution covered all the ground. These people had found nothing new in theology. The Plymouth element made up the bulk of their addresses and statements. They said they were not guilty of sin unless they were conscious of sin. This did not agree with the words, "Who can understand his error?" or "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked," or "If a man say he has no sin he deceives himself." The apparent change in the views of the appellants were no improvement on those advocated before the Synod. He thought it would be unwise to throw the case back on the Session of Knox Church. It would be a source of continual wrangling and discussion, and for this reason he could not vote for the appointment of assessors. To make special terms and arrangements with the appellants, as asked in their paper, was to establish a system of disintegration within the Church.

Dr. Fraser, Hamilton, rose to do an act of justice. Mr. Ball had said that if the appellants had been under the care of the former pastor the trouble would not have happened. The fact was that the trouble had arisen under the old pastor and not under Mr. Jackson.

Rev. Dr. Laing then rose to close the debate. He believed in Church discipline. He thought the wholesome effects of discipline were already to be seen in the appellants. He knew parties that had held these same views thirty years ago, but by kindly