

Abstract of the Proceedings of the United Secession Synod.

On Monday, the 1st May, the Synod of the United Secession Church met in Broughton Place Church, Edinburgh, and was opened by a sermon by the Rev. John Smart, Leith, the retiring Moderator, from Matt. 5: 14. "Ye are the light of the world." The court, having been constituted, and the names of those ministers, who, since last meeting had died having been taken from the roll; and the names of those who had been ordained since last meeting, having been added to it, made choice of the Rev. Andrew Elliott, Ford, to be Moderator.

Professors Mitchell and Duncan.

Communications from the Rev. Doctors Mitchell and Duncan—the former of whom had conducted for seventeen years, and the latter for nine years, respectively, two departments in the Theological Seminary—were read, the purport of which was, that in consequence of severe affliction, they now believed to resign their sacred trusts into the hands of the Synod. There was but one feeling of deep sympathy pervading the court on the painful occasion. It was deemed the most respectful mode of receiving these communications, to appoint a committee to meet and suggest such measures to the court as the solemn occasion obviously demanded. In the evening the Committee reported that there was no reasonable hope that Professors Mitchell and Duncan would be restored to their wonted health and usefulness, and that they felt themselves constrained to recommend to the Synod to accept of their respective resignations—which the Synod did; and also appointed a committee to write a letter of affectionate condolence to each.

On Friday the Synod proceeded to fill up the vacant Professorships of Pastoral Theology and Biblical Literature. The list for the first of these contained the names of Dr. Marshall, Dr. Heugh and Dr. Harper. Dr. Heugh declined on the ground of deficient health, and Dr. Marshall, because he had outlived the period of eligibility. "I thank my friends," said he, "for putting me in nomination. Although a useless compliment, I still regard it as a very high one." Dr. Harper was elected.

The list of candidates for the Chair of Biblical Literature contained the names of Rev. John Eadie, Dr. King, Rev. Wm. Johnston, Limekilns, and Dr. Marshall. Dr. King and Mr. Johnston declined the appointment, Mr. Eadie was chosen.

The case of Mr. Rutherford.

A complaint was laid before the Court that Mr. Rutherford had violated an order of Synod, prohibiting their members from holding ministerial intercourse with Mr. Morrison, of Kilmarnock, who was deposed for heresy. Mr. Rutherford acknowledged that he had preached for Mr. Mor-