

has he the right when members of that congregation bring these affairs under his notice, and call for judgment upon them, to express his views regarding them. The right of appeal to the Presbytery from the action of Sessions and congregations has always been regarded as the *palladium* of our Church—equally in the interests of minister and people. And in this manner the “concerns” of St. Andrew’s Church have been brought before other ministers, very much to their disgust, and they are not justly charged, even by insinuation, with interfering in the affairs of that congregation when they express their honest opinions upon these affairs as brought regularly under the review of the Presbytery. It fell to me, failing any one else, to move more than once in the Presbytery, resolutions vindicating Mr. Johnston; and now I may be expected to defend my views, when they are assailed, outside the ecclesiastical courts. I can appeal to my past record as a proof that I have always stood by my brethren in the maintenance of their rights; but I do not think the *esprit du corps* makes it necessary for a minister to endorse any irregularities of which he may believe his *confreres* guilty. Further, I know for a fact that many judicious laymen outside of St. Andrew’s Church had their faith in the wisdom of Kirk-Sessions considerably shaken by the course taken by that of St. Andrew’s Church in their treatment of Mr. Johnston; and therefore the interests of the Church at large call for this protest against the part they have taken in these transactions. No man of any independence of mind or vigour of thought could be got to accept the office of elder, if he were liable to be thrust out of the Session by violence for maintaining firmly his own opinions; so that the future standing of Sessions depends upon the vindication of Mr. Johnston’s rights. And if it be said that it is invidious in a clergyman to set himself to criticise a decision of the civil courts, I have only to reply, that I have myself sat as a judge (ecclesi-