

is well, no doubt, to be zealous for the truth, and even jealous for it. But that spirit which is always suspecting error,—is so ready to make a man an offender for a word, and is eagle eyed in detecting some heterodox sentiment lurking under the most innocent expressions,—is most unchristian and injurious. A few months ago, Dr. Keir, in conversing on the subject, informed us that the suspicions arose out of Mr. Imrie's case, referred to in the above letter. This Mr. Imrie was a man of subtle mind, who seemed to delight in exercising his ingenuity in presenting the truths of religion in an unusual manner, or in the form of paradox. This case was for several years before the Synod, and finally he was deposed. But, as Dr. Keir informed us, there was a strong sympathy for him among the students, and from the above letter it appears that he himself had the same feeling, and this led the Presbytery to entertain suspicions of them generally, himself among the rest. In connection with this, he mentioned to us recently, that the Presbytery here in consequence of the case, became suspicious of the orthodoxy of the body at home, and resolved to subject all ministers coming from Scotland, to an examination previous to their being received.

The Theological society mentioned in the above letter, was an association of young men principally students of Theology, for the purpose of mutual progress in their studies. They held regular meetings at which questions in Divinity were discussed, essays were read, and sometimes discourses or plans of discourses delivered and criticised. Of this association, he and Mr. Gordon were members, while they remained in the Old Country, and he ever after recognised it as an important means of advancement in his studies.

#### IV. DEVOTION TO MISSIONARY WORK, AND APPOINTMENT TO NOVA SCOTIA.

But his intimacy with Mr. Gordon was especially interesting, from its connection with his decision to come to this country. The latter, when a working weaver, had been so touched by one of Dr. Mc Gregor's appeals, setting forth the spiritual destitution of this country, that he resolved to devote himself to study for the work of the ministry, with a view to coming out as a missionary. During the whole course of his studies, he kept this object steadily in view,—and whether his intercourse with Dr. Keir, was the means of *originating* in the mind of the latter, the desire to devote himself to the same work or not, it had at least the effect of strengthening and confirming it. The Missionary work was then occupying the atten-