

were, on the motion of Mr Thomas, remitted to a committee which was then appointed. A report regarding them to be made to a future sederunt of the Synod.

#### APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO THE CHURCH.

The next matter of business consisted of applications by the Rev. Walter Inglis, late missionary in South Africa; the Rev. J. Cowper, of the Reformed Church, United States; the Rev James Caldwell, of the Free Church; and the Rev. Alex. Rutherford, and Mr William Anderson, late of the Evangelical Union Church; to be received into the United Presbyterian Church.

Mr Thomas said, the committee on bills and overtures were of opinion, that these applications should be remitted to a committee to consider and report regarding them; would the Synod appoint a committee for this purpose.

Farther discussion, however, resulted in the Synod agreeing to deal with the applications in open Court.

The first was that of the Rev Walter Inglis, late missionary in South Africa, which the Presbytery of Edinburgh had transmitted, with relative documents, and a cordial recommendation that it should be sustained by the Synod.

Mr Inglis was unanimously admitted.

The next application, that of Mr Cowper of the Reformed Church, United States, came also through the Presbytery of Edinburgh, accompanied with their recommendation, that he should be received into the Church, but in this, as in the former case, no relative documents had been transmitted by the Clerk of Presbytery. It was in consequence agreed after some discussion to delay the case till a future sederunt.

The next application, that of the Rev. James Caldwell of the Free Church, came through the Glasgow Presbytery, who recommended it to the favorable consideration of the Synod. Mr Caldwell states, in his application, that, from various prudential (or providential) considerations, he had been led to entertain the idea of withdrawing from the Free Church, of which he was a licentiate, and seeking admission into the United Presbyterian Church.

The Clerk having read the documents, a motion by Mr Bell of Newcastle, that the Synod admit this gentleman, in accordance with the recommendation of the Glasgow Presbytery, was agreed to unanimously.

The fourth application of the Rev Alexander Rutherford, late of the Evangelical Union Church, and formerly minister of the First Associate Congregation, Falkirk, excited more discussion than any of the former ones. In 1841, previous to the Union

of the United Secession and Relief Churches, Mr Rutherford had declared, in the Secession Presbytery of Stirling, that one of those doctrinal points which the Secession Synod had condemned as an error was not an error. For this he was suspended by that Presbytery; he applied to the Synod, but the appeal was dismissed. The Stirling Presbytery subsequently deposed him from the office of the ministry on the ground of contumacy. Mr Rutherford, in his memorial, prayed that the sentence of suspension which had been passed upon him by the Synod might be removed, on the ground that he came to be seriously convinced of his error in opposing the Synod formerly, and in propagating, for twelve years, doctrines opposed to those of the United Presbyterian Church. He wished the sentence of suspension removed, in order that he might be free to connect himself with some evangelical body. The Stirling Presbytery, finding that Mr Rutherford now acquiesced in the Associate Synod's condemnation of errors, expressed regret for not having submitted to the decisions of the Synod and Presbytery, by which he was suspended from the exercise of the ministerial office, and from membership of the church; and for having, during so long a time, resisted these decisions, agreed to transmit his papers to the Synod, with the recommendation of his application, to the favorable consideration of the Supreme Court.

Dr. M'Kerrow was heard briefly in support of the Presbytery's recommendation.

Mr Steedman of Stirling was not present when the Presbytery agreed to the recommendation which had been read, and did not wish to be understood as concurring in it.

Some discussion then arose as to the nature of Mr Rutherford's application, it being a question whether Mr R. desired to be received as a member of the U. P. Church, when it was agreed to hear him in explanation.

Mr Rutherford then rose and said, his application was, that suspension should be removed, and that he should be restored to the office of a minister in the Church. He exceedingly regretted that the ambiguity of the prayer of the petition should have subjected the Synod to so much trouble. The reason of it was this, that his mind was in doubt at the time, when he saw it his duty to send in an acknowledgement to the Presbytery. He then saw his way clear only to one point, and that was to appear before the Presbytery and say that he had seen it his duty to acknowledge his error. He wished to have the time that elapsed between August and May, to consider whether or not it would be better to apply to be