

PRESBYTERIAL VISITATION

OF

KNOX'S CHURCH,

Held from the Fifth to the Twenty-Fifth of December, 1855.

THE REV. JOHN MACTAVISH, MODERATOR.

I have already entered my Appeal against having been put as an accused party at the bar. I have also appealed against the application to such a meeting as the present of the rules and regulations of 1706, designed for ordinary and not special Presbyterial Visitations, and which never received the sanction either of the General Assembly or of the Church. I complain of it as a perversion of ecclesiastical law, that charges against a minister should have originated in his own Session, and that they should be contained in an act of resignation of their office, by the majority of office-bearers, who, instantly retiring, left the Moderator alone, thus annihilating the Session. Farther, I complain that the Presbytery, in place of naming Assessors to me, in order that the matter of resignation might be orderly adjudicated on, grasped the matter themselves, in the shape of unfinished jottings of the Session Minutes, and turned my application for Presbyterial interference into a line of procedure never contemplated by me, and altogether foreign from the design I had in view. Forty-six years have I laboured in the ministry, and many Church Acts of an extraordinary kind have I seen, but never in the palmiest days of Moderate ascendancy, did I see the most obnoxious man of the Evangelical party put unceremoniously, and on his own shewing, to the bar; deprived of his judicial status during lengthened sederunts; and without any previous notice of it, called to explain over a field of ten years, every circumstance which malignity and prejudice might take hold of to tease and to blacken him.

It was my application to the Presbytery that brought them