

with a libel for error hanging over his head, would tend to any end rather than the edification of the body.

After this the Synod intimated to Dr. Marshall that the way was open to him, to bring the libel directly before the Synod now; and that the interests of the Church required that it should be brought forward not later than Thursday forenoon of that week.

Dr. Marshall stated that he would consult with his friends, and announce next day what course he was likely to adopt. In his announcement he hesitated about introducing the libel at the present meeting; and, in consequence, considerable discussion arose in the Synod on the question of proceeding immediately with the libel or delaying, after which, a motion of Dr. Robson's was agreed to, namely: "That the Synod do not regard the reasons assigned by Dr. Marshall for not proceeding with the libel as satisfactory, and that, in accordance with the expressed directions of the Synod in its previous finding, he be required to proceed with it now."

On this Dr. Marshall came forward with a paper in his hand, and said, "I lay this document on your table, because I have been compelled by your decision. It is only a sketch which I intended to revise and correct, and which I would have made much more perfect. As it is, I trust it will serve the purpose. My conviction is, that if justice is done to the doctrines taught in the Word of God and the standard books of the Synod, it will serve the purpose; at all events, if not here, I trust before the public. I shall not offer one word of pleading in support of it, because, as I have stated, I am not prepared, and I shall not damage the case by offering an unprepared pleading. I believe that all my friends who concur with me in their way of thinking, are pretty much in the same situation. I have only to add, that the friend who is associated with me in this matter, and at whose instance the libel is produced, is beside me—I mean Dr. Hay of Kinross, and he will speak for himself."

Dr. Hay then rose and said, "I have signed this document to-day; and I must say I have been a good deal influenced by my friend Dr. Marshall's sufferings, as I considered them, at last Synod. He wished to have my humble name along with his own celebrated name, and I thought that my regard for truth and the interests of the Church should not bar me, in my own humble way, from endeavoring to promote it. Another leading object I had in signing this document was, because, in my humble opinion, as no redress was procured for the authors of the forty-seven memorials at the last meeting in May, I considered this document would be the means of setting before the Church and the world the precise points of difference between us. What Dr. Marshall has said of himself about want of preparation is ten times more applicable to me. I can plead nothing upon it, and I shall never open my mouth. Let the Synod plead on it, and decide on it for the glory of our Great Master and the interest of the truths of religion, to which all of us, I trust, are ardently, and equally ardently attached; for, although we differ from each other on certain doctrines, I have no doubt that my brethren are as zealous for the truth as I am. I have only to add, that I can take no further interest in this document beyond signing my name to it. It would require weeks of preparation before I could say anything which would either satisfy myself or have any influence on the Court."