

strained to do all that we consistently could do for the foreign distribution of the Scriptures, in aid of the translations made by the Baptist Missionaries in heathen lands. Our motives and our candour were at the time commended. Can any reasonable man imagine, that this, with a correspondent line of conduct subsequently, in forming a new Society for the object proposed, was a crime of such a nature that we ought to be publicly arraigned, accused, and condemned unheard? * It was truly astonishing to hear our accusers assert, that they "were acting on the defensive," when the meetings were called with manifest reference to us, though our retirement from connexion with the British and Foreign Bible Society had been effected in the quietest manner possible; and it was not even pretended, that we had made any attack, either publicly or privately, on that Institution, or any of its friends.

I proceed, however, without farther introduction, to give, with additions in reference to the second Meeting [enclosed in brackets] the outlines of my

DEFENCE.

Union among Christians is highly desirable. This was not only enjoined by the Saviour on His disciples, but was also made the object of express petition in His intercessory prayer. "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that thou hast

* See John vii. 51. and Acts xxiii. 35. It might have been well for those who justly commended our excellent Translators, to have regarded a valuable remark of theirs in their Preface (p. 1.) "Being brought together to a parley face to face, we sooner compose our differences, than by writings, which are endless." Had our accusers adventured to allow me fifteen minutes for the correction of statements the delivery of which occupied four hours, I would have been perfectly content to let the whole rest there. But if one cannot obtain a hearing when misrepresentations of the most serious nature, as of "altering the Bible," &c. are very publicly made, it is unquestionably incumbent on him to correct them through the medium of the press.