

" rally have expected, from all churches professing the same faith,
 " every possible encouragement and assistance. It was, therefore,
 " with much surprise and regret that we observed, in some of the
 " organs of the Free Church, expressions of a desire to produce, or
 " at least to countenance, a disruption in our Synod, and division
 " and strife among our congregations. We were, for a time, willing
 " to ascribe this to ignorance of our condition, or to a want of
 " due consideration of the position of our Church ; but from the sub-
 " sequent conduct of the Free Church in publishing and sending out
 " letters, addresses, and other documents calculated to excite the
 " feelings of our people, and commissioning deputations for the same
 " purpose, we are compelled, however unwillingly, to conclude, that
 " there exists a desire on the part of the leaders of that Church to
 " disturb and distract the congregations under our care. We cannot
 " regard such conduct as wise, generous or Christian. * * *

" We certainly had a right to expect, that before being accused
 " of acting from unworthy motives and exposed to unjust censures,
 " both here and in Scotland, as being indifferent or hostile to the
 " Redeemer's cause, we should have been, at the very least, request-
 " ed, in a calm and Christian manner, to state the reasons for our
 " conduct.

" We cannot but feel ourselves deeply aggrieved, when we see
 " charges which we must characterise as reckless and unwarrantable,
 " brought against those who, to say the least, have been as faithful
 " and laborious in the service of the Lord, as they who bring forward
 " such allegations ; men who have borne the burden and heat of the
 " day, who have spent years of ill-requited labour in gathering in
 " those who, but for their exertions, would have been strangers to the
 " means of grace. * * Why should the late division in our Synod,
 " —a division which may justly be termed *the most perfectly un-*
 " *called for, the most utterly unaccountable schism which ever took*
 " *place in the Church of Christ,*—be encouraged and perpetuated by
 " your influence, instead of being healed, as it might possibly be, by
 " your interposition ? Why should the able and zealous mission-
 " aries you send among us exert their energies in endeavouring to
 " distract, that is, to destroy our settled congregations, instead of
 " carrying the message of salvation into those numerous places of