

WAS THE DISRUPTION CALLED FOR?

THE most common answer with which the friends of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, when advocating the necessity of the recent disruption, are met by those who support the Synod in connection with the Church of Scotland, is, that whatever may have been the case in Scotland, a disruption in Canada was completely uncalled for. And, by many, the mere assertion involved in this answer, is obviously regarded as in itself conclusive. Indeed, one can scarcely move about in society, without meeting with some simpleton or other, who will deliver himself of this answer with an air of oracular wisdom, as if it settled the whole question at issue completely and for ever. "Sir, it is *my opinion* that the disruption was *a thing* completely uncalled for. There may, it is true, have been occasion for the disruption in Scotland; and, perhaps, had I been in Scotland, I should have joined the *Free Church* too; but, in Canada, Sir, in Canada—three thousand miles from Scotland—where union among all Presbyterians was of such immense importance, the disruption, let me tell you, was an act of most gratuitous folly."

Of those who would settle the question in this summary way, a large proportion, there is reason to believe, are about as remarkable for their ignorance as for their confidence. When asked to give a reason for their opinion, and thus gently reminded, that, assertion, however confident, is not exactly the same thing with argument, it will commonly be found—we have even heard not a few frankly avow it,—that they have never studied the subject at all, that they have been quite content to jump to their conclusion in the dark, and that, mistaking the mere assertion, that the disruption was uncalled for, for an argument, they have never supposed that any other reason for their judgement could be expected or required. To such persons we have little to say. The conduct of men, professing to be followers of Christ, who can coolly dispose, in this way, of a grave and momentous question of principle—a question, moreover, deeply affecting the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom,—needs no comment; their support of the