

very objects, for which such meetings and proceedings were got up; such as, at the time of his ordination, at the General Meeting in 1827, when it was proposed to vote him into the sole possession of the surplus funds of the church; and, thirdly, the meetings which have been held more notoriously of late, under the avowed sanction of him and his Elders, in their assumed capacity of the session of the church. It is hardly possible to calculate the mischiefs which have sprung from this source: as if with a view to aggravate to the uttermost the mischief of these cabals, they have been held, during the recent excitements, at public taverns and hotels, and have been frequented by many persons, less from any real interest in their object than for the sake of conviviality, and in the spirit of mere wanton frolic and mischief. Certain it is they have operated powerfully to create impressions in the minds of those who are little susceptible of having their errors and prejudices rectified; and their unhappy effects can only be removed by time patience, and forbearance.

The rumours and accusations propagated in this manner, and coming in contact with such materials, in such circumstances, have, like sparks among dry wood, blazed at once into a conflagration, so that the grossest unlikelihood and absurdity have been no check to their propagation; and while, by this extensive and active machinery, Mr. Black has acquired the facility of giving diffusion to the fama, and of rivetting, at least in the minds of his own partisans, the belief of his accusations, it was impossible for me either to stop the one or eradicate the other, because his partisans, had they even come (which they did not, and would not,) to hear my vindication, would have brought with them a spirit, I fear, little susceptible of receiving conviction of their errors. I am fearless of contradiction, when I say that not half a dozen of that party have ever sought an opportunity of being disabused; and little wonder, when we consider what example was set them in this respect. I wonder not, under these circumstances, that the excitement has been so great; it was enough to madden the minds of the populace. The whole History of our Church, since Mr. Black entered it, attests the truth of this; the same cabals, the same intrigues, the same agents, the same objects, the same machinery, appear and reappear. You can see the troubled waters, where they rise at the voice of the master spirit, who musters and directs the storm; and wherever you see the waters calm and untroubled, be sure they lie beyond the sphere of his power, and beyond the influence of his magic wand. To dismiss figurative language, it is susceptible of proof, that all our excitements, past and present, will be found to originate with Mr. Black, to spread from him, as from a centre, and to owe exclusively to his party, their agents, and authors; hence it is, that rumours, contemptible in themselves and altogether unworthy of serious regard, have become formidable, and, under existing circumstances, must be perpetual—interminable.

When, in connexion with this party spirit, the arbitrators con-