

probationers to beware of the use of doubtful, objectionable, and misleading phraseology, in the great work of ministering the gospel of the grace of God for the saving instruction of men ; to speak as they ought to speak, using sound words which cannot be condemned ; speaking also the truth in love, and by manifestation of the truth, commending themselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God ;"

The Synod having disposed of these overtures and petitions by passing this motion of Dr. Heugh, had yet to take into consideration those papers which related to personal charges. Dr. Brown, of Edinburgh, one of the Professors, by advice of his Presbytery, presented a complaint against Dr. Marshall of Kirkintilloch, for certain "Remarks" he had lately published, "on the Statements on certain Doctrinal points, made before the United Associate Synod at their request, by the two Senior Professors," in which he repeated his accusations of their holding and teaching unsound doctrines. In regard to this complaint, the Synod found "that Dr. Brown had acted with great propriety in bringing this matter, as he had done, before the Synod, that this court entertains a high sense of the learning, talent, and devotedness with which Dr. Brown has discharged his professional duties ; and that as respects more particularly the doctrinal questions now agitated, the Synod, satisfied with the explanations which Dr. Brown has given in his 'Statement' and otherwise, has entire confidence in his soundness in the faith, and earnestly trusts that he will continue to discharge his important functions, with equal honor to himself and benefit to the church."

In regard to Dr. Marshall, the party principally complained against, the Synod found that he had, in a public journal, "brought serious charges against many of his brethren in the ministry and eldership on insufficient grounds ; that in a pamphlet recently published, he had reiterated these charges, especially against the Senior Professor, in a still more offensive form, charging him with teaching unsound doctrine ; that he has thus pursued an unconstitutional course, inasmuch as, if he really believed such doctrines were held and promulgated, he ought to have brought the matter before the Church Courts in the only competent way ; and that on these and other grounds (not necessary to be recorded here) he should be admonished at the Bar of the Synod."

On this decision being given, Dr. Marshall intimated his intention of bringing forward a libel against Dr. Brown, and in order that Dr. Marshall, should he still adhere to his purpose, might have the opportunity of doing it before the ensuing meeting of the Divinity Hall, the Synod adjourned to meet again on the 21st of July, being an interval of only two months.

The Synod met accordingly. On the 22nd July, Dr. Marshall stated that the libel was in course of preparation, and might be proceeded with at the present meeting ; but that on consulting with his friends, he had been advised to delay it until the next regular meeting of Synod in May, 1846. Then considerable discussion took place, in the midst of which Dr. Brown said that it was his deep conviction that the welfare of the Church, and justice to himself, alike required that if the libel is to be brought forward at all, it must be at the present meeting of Synod, but that if the Court came to a different conclusion, he would likely find himself under the necessity of declining to officiate as tutor to the rising ministry during the session so nearly approaching, as he felt persuaded that his acting in that capacity,