

tery. It is worthy the attention of every true-hearted Presbyterian.

“That considering the disruption of the Established Church of Scotland which has recently taken place, and the conflicting views which are entertained by the members of the Free Church, and of the existing Establishment, on several important questions relating to the Government of the Church, and to the terms on which the Church can alone be lawfully united to the State, and considering the danger which might result to the best interests of the Church in this Province, from the admission of ministers holding unsound views on these subjects, the Synod, while taking such steps as they may deem fit for letting it be well understood that they act in this matter as a free and independent church, and do not directly involve themselves in the controversy carried on in Scotland, shall make specific declaration, that the following principles, which are now contended for by the Free Church of Scotland, have always been held by them as the original and unalterable principles of the Church of Scotland, and that they are still determined to enforce them as principles involved in the doctrine of the Headship of Christ, and identified with the purity and liberty of the Christian Church, viz. :

“1st. That the pastoral relation can only be legitimately founded on the free consent of the people, and that, whatever the form of nomination, no pastor should be intruded on a congregation contrary to the will of the majority, with or without reasons assigned.

“2nd. That in giving effect to the will of the people in calling a pastor, and generally in all matters ecclesiastical, the Church is responsible only to Christ—that the state has no right in any form to limit or control the right of the people to call a pastor, or the right of the office-bearers of the Church to establish or dissolve, as they shall see cause, the pastoral relation; and that any attempt, on the part of the State, to usurp such power, ought, at whatever cost, to be resisted as an intrusion into the ecclesiastical province, and an encroachment on the liberties of Christ's Church and people.