

transgression of God's law. The conscience of such, being weak, would thus be actually defiled. These were cases, therefore, of forbearance to be exercised, not where there was a departure from God's revealed will, upon the ground that it was a matter of "minor importance;" but where God's word left the parties at perfect liberty: "Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind"

The reader then will observe that these Remarks, so far, do not take up the question "What are the differences which may warrant one professedly Christian body to remain in a state of separation from another?" but are intended to show that the forbearance inculcated in the passages referred to, being a forbearance in which God's word has left us at liberty, can be no rule where God's word has not so left us at liberty, but where it has spoken with authority, setting before us something to be believed or to be done; even although it should be the opinion of some that God has interposed this authority in matters which are of very little importance.

#### FREE PRESBYTERY OF HALIFAX

This Court met in the Free Church College here on Wednesday the 24th day of June; the Rev. Alexr. Romans, Moderator.

The principal business was receiving the Report of the Committee appointed at last meeting to examine Mr. Forbes. The Report expressed high satisfaction with the appearance which Mr. Forbes had made on the different subjects of examination, and strongly recommended that application should be made to the Synod for leave to take him on public probationary trials for license. The Presbytery approved of the Report, agreed to apply accordingly, and instructed the Clerk to transmit an extract of the minutes in the case, along with Mr. Forbes's certificates, to the Synod at their ensuing meeting.

A statement of the financial affairs of Chalmers' Church was given in.

The Court, agreeably to adjournment, met in the same place again on Wednesday the 2nd day of July; the Rev. Alex. Romans, Moderator.

The Rev. Professor Lyall was chosen Moderator for the current year; but as he was not present, Mr. Romans was

continued in the chair as Moderator pro tempore

A minute of Synod was read authorizing the Presbytery to take Mr. Forbes on public probationary trials. The Presbytery accordingly examined him on Theology and Church History, in which he acquitted himself entirely to their satisfaction. Subjects for trial discourses having been prescribed to him, the Presbytery appointed supplies for the different stations up to the end of the month; and adjourned, after they had appointed their next ordinary meeting to be held in the same place on the last Wednesday of July.

#### FREE SYNOD OF NOVA SCOTIA.

This Court met here on Wednesday the 25th of June, when the Rev. Alexr. Forrester preached a very reasonable discourse, on the sustentation of the ministry, from 1 Cor. ix. 14

The Synod having been duly constituted, the Rev. Murdoch Stewart, of St. George's Channel, was chosen Moderator.

On the motion of Professor King, the thanks of the Synod were given to Mr. Forrester for the excellent discourse which he had preached before the Synod, with a request that the discourse be published. Mr. Forrester acceded to the request of the Synod.

The Synod authorized the Presbytery of Halifax to take Mr. Forbes on public probationary trials for license.

Along with the special devotional exercises of Thursday, reports were received, from several of the ministers, of the progress of the Free Church, and of the state of religion generally, in their respective districts. The hearing of these reports, indeed, occupied a great part of Thursday and Friday and Saturday. From the reports it appeared that three ministers had in the course of the year been added to the Synod, and admitted to congregational charges, viz., the Rev. Hugh McLeod, in Cape Breton, and Messrs Alexander Munro, and Neil Bethune, in Prince Edward's Island: that there were extensive districts still destitute; and that, in several cases, where ministers are settled, the provision made for their support is very inadequate.— This inadequacy of provision having been brought out also in the Presbytery Records which had been submitted to examination, Professor King, having taken a review of the matter which had