

feelings; and there does seem at this moment a little too much danger of a collision which may rebound to the weakening of the citadel. The request for prayer in favor of Divine guidance may not, therefore, be inappropriate. If sincere in its belief the Church recognizes the efficacy of prayer. In the history of the Scottish Churches there have been numerous instances to prove that God does vouchsafe guidance in the time of danger. The approaching crisis may be signalized by special manifestations of the Divine Power to keep the Church right. But if prayer is to be of any practical avail it must be accompanied with a disposition to submit the human to the Divine; and if whilst men are praying that God would specially guide and direct, they are determined at all hazards to enforce the adoption of their own schemes, such prayers will not be answered; they are nothing but a mockery and a farce.—*Scot. Am. Journal.*

#### THE MACDONNELL HERESY CASE.

We quote the following from an Ontario paper:

More than the usual amount of interest was taken in the meeting of the Toronto Presbytery yesterday from the fact that the Rev. D. J. Macdonnell was expected, in terms of the resolution adopted by the General Assembly last year, to define the position he now holds on the question of the eternity of future punishment. The matter only came up a few minutes before adjournment, and then the doors were, after some discussion, closed on the plea that it would be more respectful to the General Assembly to treat the matter in this way than to publish Mr. Macdonnell's statement to the world before presenting it to the Assembly. The

fact that Mr. McDonnell's views are generally known to the public to have undergone no change since last year is sufficient to stamp this as a kind of pleasing fiction dear to the hearts of lawyers, but not generally supposed to be agreeable to grave and reverend divines. Be that as it may, Mr. Macdonnell's report is to the effect that he has nothing to report except that he is still in the position he occupied last year. This places the matter once more before General Assembly, in which body there will be a keen and bitter struggle over his case. His policy will doubtless be to stand on the defensive and compel the Assembly to put him out of the church, or instruct the Presbytery of Toronto to libel him for heresy, which will almost certainly be done. If the local feeling in the matter is as intense everywhere as it is here, the proceedings at Halifax will be hardly less exciting than they were at Ottawa during the recent session of the Dominion Parliament. The election of delegates in most Presbyteries has turned exclusively on this question, and according as the one branch of the church or the other is in the majority, so will the complexion of the delegation be. From Toronto the great majority are men of no uncertain sound, only two elders and two ministers, I believe, being favorable to Mr. Macdonnell. The majority includes Dr. Robb, Principal Caven, Professor McLaren and several others of equally pronounced orthodoxy. It is, of course, premature to forecast the immediate result; the remote one can hardly be considered doubtful. Whichever side wins, there is bound to be a secession if not a disruption of the union. I do not believe that the line of cleavage will follow the line of cohesism, for there were some "Liberals" in the Canadian Presbyterian Church before union, and Mr. Macdonnell will find many warm supporters amongst the representatives from the corresponding body in the Lower Provinces.