

speaking in a loud tone to that excellent young man, simply because otherwise he would not apprehend my meaning.

I will not say that I never put what are called "leading questions." I assert in regard to this, two things: first, that at the Session Meetings, the mode of questioning *on all sides* was not materially different; and secondly, that whenever the parties at the Session, or the Moderator or any member in Presbytery, complained of these leading questions, I invariably yielded the point, and either asked others to examine or changed my manner of questioning, so as to avoid the error complained of.

That in Mr. Pyper's store, in March 1854, I did apply the term "enemies" to Messrs. McMurrich and Shaw, is true; but why does Mr. Shaw now refuse me the benefit of the explanation he so candidly gave of it at the Synod in June last, and which is assuredly the genuine one, namely, that he did not understand by the expression any personal reference, but simply an expression of dissatisfaction that they did not accord with me in opinion in regard to the McGregor and other cases, and did not help me, as I expected they would have done, in the vindication of a righteous cause?

That Knox's congregation is in an "unhealthy" state, spiritually, I doubt not. Are there many congregations around us that are, in a high and holy sense of the word, "healthy?" I think I know my congregation pretty well; and I hesitate not to say, that for *two* suitable men for the Eldership in 1846, I will undertake to give you *ten* in 1855. If our prayer meetings, domestic and public, are not so well attended as they should be, I beg to know whether the Elders and the managers may not be somewhat responsible, from their not strengthening the hands of the Pastor by their own personal attendance. It is easy for prejudice to say of the congregation and of me, "it is naught;" but I would not despise the day of small things. Still, "let the righteous smite us; it is a kindness." Spiritual life is certainly low amongst us; and at the head and front of the causes of this I would put my own short comings. The heart-burnings which certain parties have occasioned are certainly prejudicial to us; but if you will give me the storm and the tornado, I will cheerfully make you a present of the stillness and the death which accompany "the pestilence that walks in darkness."