

deem it their peculiar mission to proclaim; and they had that opportunity before the General Assembly. We hope that now, having done all that as members of the Presbyterian Church they can do, they will be able under protest to desist from propagating their views in such a way as to rend the congregation or perplex uninstructed souls, and will continue to serve the Lord as they have opportunity, while remaining within the Presbyterian Church.

To prevent any misconception, it is our duty to state that while the appellants are not, in the opinion of the Church, right in the peculiar views which they hold, no Court of the Church has allowed any charge of unworthy, far less of immoral, conduct to be made against them. They may be deceived as to their experience, but their outer life and conduct are in no way impugned—we might go further, and say, are admitted to be unimpeachable. Nor, as Dr. Urc said, is the doctrinal divergence very wide, although it is fundamental, and the error which they hold may develop into a dangerous experience and ruinous fall through spiritual pride. The speeches of Drs. Middlemiss, Maclaren and Urc were clear and forcible expositions of the truth, and left not a doubt that the position, doctrinally, of the appellants is contrary to the inferior Standards of the Church and to the Word of God. It was manifest, also, that the appellants have not thought themselves out. Dazzled and bewildered by the discovery of the great privilege which belongs to every child of God, through the indwelling of the Spirit, if he will avail himself of it, and having suddenly emerged from the dark and unsatisfactory views of many in the Church, who are satisfied with low attainments in the divine life and dislike all manifestations of earnest piety, they entertain the illusion that no one ever before saw the truth as they do, or yielded himself up to be guided by the Holy Spirit, as the appellants profess to have done. When they come to know that in all the past ages there have lived men and women as earnest, as pure, as thoroughly sanctified as they are, who once had the same deficient views of the nature of sin and

the spirituality of the law of God, but afterwards came to have a deeper insight into these mysteries, and to be humbled like Paul before God, instead of being lifted up in the sight of men as being without sin and holier than the ordinary child of God, they also will rejoice even more than they do now in a fuller and clearer light. We wish for them not less of the Spirit of God, but more. We long to see them come out of the shadow into the full noonday. They were not suspended because they hold the views that a man can, and some do, live without being conscious of sin; that there can be no sin when one is not conscious of it as sin; that there are times in which they themselves have no sin to confess. All these opinions, dangerous as they are, the Session was willing to tolerate. The appellants were not suspended for holding erroneous views, but because they would not desist from teaching these views to the offence and injury of many. The Session knowing that this was being done, very properly refused to recognize such teaching and forbade it, and when the appellants would not submit, suspended them. We do well, as Dr. Laing said, to distrust the inner light and not to entertain the delusive fancy, that because a man "accepts the Holy Ghost" by a definite act and prays, that, therefore, every thought that comes in answer to prayer is the voice of the Spirit of God. We have no wish to see many such cases, but we think beneficial results will come out of this most interesting discussion. *Magna est veritas.* Let it shine.—*Presbyterian Review.*

#### REMARKS.

This very temperate editorial we clip from the organ, or one of the organs, of the Presbyterian Church, and commend it to our readers for careful perusal.

The *Review* would scarcely be a representative paper if it did not reflect the majority vote of the Assembly, but whilst so doing, it could hardly be more kindly in its remarks upon the whole matter.

We call attention to the full exoneration of the appellants from every charge which did in any way tend to compro-