

APPENDIX.

No. I.

MEMORIAL BY DR. BURNS REGARDING MR. PYPER.

As this Paper forms the basis of all matters affecting Mr. Pyper, and his election to the Eldership, it is with propriety inserted first in the Appendix. It was originally addressed to the Sabbath-school Teachers; but circumstances led afterwards to its production before the Church Courts:—

In the course of Wednesday the 27th day of March last I met at an interval of, perhaps, an hour, two members of Knox's Congregation, Mr. James Stitt and Mr. Robt. Simpson, who, in reference to the anticipated Congregational meeting of that evening mentioned an incident which had been brought under their notice by a member of the Congregation, whose name they did not state; and I understood them as referring to it in illustration of certain feelings that had been shewing themselves in certain quarters, and of which they thought it proper that the Pastor should be made aware. It was to the effect that the member referred to, had on the morning of the day before been in communication with a gentleman, whose name is on the roll of communicants, when reference was made to the presentation of a testimonial to Dr. Burns. "I thought," said the gentleman, "that the testimonial had been presented long ago." "No," said the other, "it is intended to be presented this evening." "It is well that it should be so," replied the other, "as Dr. Burns will be sure of getting his walking ticket to-morrow night," or words to that effect. Whatever may have been my feelings on the occasion, I did not ask the name of the person who made such a speech, but simply remarked on the extreme folly of the thing, seeing my call was for life, and could only be cancelled by the authority which conferred it. On Wednesday evening the meeting was held, and Mr. Geo. Pyper was proposed as Chairman. Mr. R. D. McPherson objected to the nomination, and gave as his reason a very improper speech which Mr. Pyper had made not many hours before, but Mr. M. was not allowed to tell what it was. It never could have occurred to me that the speech referred to was the same that had been reported to myself; and I made no inquiry about it. All that night, however, and next day, the thing preyed upon my mind, and I went to Mr. McPherson, and asked him if this was the speech to which Messrs. Simpson and Stitt had referred. He told me at once that it was, detailing to me the facts as they occurred. I asked him to go with me to Mr. Pyper, which he readily did; and Mr. Stitt also being present, the matter was laid before him (Mr. P.). He was greatly excited by apparent irritation, and gave it a broad denial, stating at the same time, that the single reference he made to the medal was in connexion with an understood proposal that it should be presented on occasion of the breakfast to Dr. Duff, and which he (Mr. P.) was determined to oppose.