

PROTEST AGAINST THE DECISION OF THE PRESBYTERY OF MONTREAL, AND APPEAL TO THE SYNOD OF MONTREAL AND OTTAWA.

FATHERS AND BRETHREN :

The Presbytery of Montreal has formulated a charge of heresy against me on the ground of a lecture delivered in the Convocation Hall of Queen's University, Kingston, in the month of February, 1893. The two counts in the indictment are, (1) "A view of the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures which impugns and discredits them as the supreme and infallible source of religious truth. (2) A view of God which sets Him forth as one who does not smite either in the way of punishment or discipline, and who has nothing to do with the judging or punishing of the wicked."

By varying majorities the Court found these two charges relevant, and, without proceeding to judgment, precluded me during the whole of the past session from discharging the duties of my chair in the Presbyterian College, Montreal.

The position taken by me in the lecture, on the statements of which the libel is based, was not a philosophical one, dealing with the rationalistic, either in metaphysics or in morals; neither was it literary and historical, as pertaining in any sense to what is called the Higher Criticism; but it was strictly hermeneutical, being based upon an examination and comparison of exceedingly important passages in the Holy Scriptures themselves. The presentation of these passages of Scripture the prosecution did