

Scotland, and gave her instead a spurious Presbyterianism; robbed her of the pure gold, and gave her the dross. When the first Schismatics left us in 1844, we said *theirs* was "the most perfectly uncalled for, the most utterly unaccountable schism which ever took place in the Church of Christ." But these words, after thirty years, we may, a hundred-fold more truly now apply to *our own*. Our schism from the Kirk is *altogether* without excuse, so much so, that we have never been able to assign *one* reason for it. It is a movement of baseness, wanton wickedness, and ingratitude beyond expression. If black burning shame doesn't cover our faces for betraying the Kirk of our native land, and having the audacity to come here and tell you so, it is because we are dead to every fine feeling of human nature. Moderator, we feel we have no right to be here; we are only a sham, and as soon as we turn our backs, and over the Atlantic, we will belong to a new-fangled sect, to be shaped and set up next month by a Legislature itself set up yesterday! The beautiful classical name, 'Church of Scotland,' is to be abolished, and a barbarous name substituted; we need add no more. Such is the reward for all you have done for us; for all the thousands your Committee has showered upon us! We have destroyed to the best of our ability your Kirk in Canada, and we come here to tell you so!" What reply the General Assembly will give to your deputation, I leave you to consider.

Having thus spoken of our Aggressors, let me now present to your Honors,

(II.)—OUR DEFENDERS.

This is the Church of Scotland party, composed of all the upright and high-principled men in the Kirk, as ministers true to their ordination vows, as laymen true to her communion. The attitude maintained by this party has been worthy of the Church to which they belong; with true dignity they have never replied to the insults of their opponents, but against their unlawful proceedings they have all along strongly protested. So far back as 1867, the late venerable Dr. Mathieson, of Montreal, a man universally esteemed in Canada, nobly stood up for the Church of Scotland against the incipient designs of the Unionists. This gentleman, for above forty years the great ornament of the Scottish Church, in Canada, and whose noble defence of her rights on every occasion, and especially on the public one of presenting the Address to the Prince of Wales at Kingston, in 1860, drew forth the encomiums of every one, might well be called the champion of the Kirk in Canada. To his unwearied efforts was mainly due the settlement of her rights spiritual and temporal, the decision of the twelve Judges of England affirming both to be exactly equal to those of the Church of England. True to the Kirk he loved so well, as respects at once her name, dignity, and status, her doctrines and worship, her simple and beautiful forms, the Doctor was ready on all occasions to do battle for the Kirk of Scotland. It was the finest oratorical achievement we ever witnessed in Canada, when at the Synod meeting with true dignity he would not even allow the very subject of "Union" to be mentioned, branding as conspirators and traitors those who would favor it, and completely silencing them by his unanswerable arguments. His memorable words on one occasion were, "If even all the ministers of my Church left her, I would in my own person uphold her, and assert her every right!" The Doctor rightly anticipated nothing but anarchy from a forced external union, where there was no unanimity of heart and mind. "Even supposing all were agreed," he writes, "there are