

revision? Within this church have the views of our Christian people regarding the teaching of the word of God so changed as to make a revision and modification of the present creed, or the preparation of a new one, the *duty* of this church? Is the belief of the office-bearers and well-informed members of the church so out of harmony with the doctrines of the confession as to call for steps being taken to re-establish harmony? In a word, is a change necessary or advisable? If so, how should this change be brought about?

In answer to these questions the advocates of revision ought to have a respectful and serious hearing; their arguments should be duly weighed, for the matter is solemn and very important. Those who favor revision accept the *onus probandi*, and rightly are expected to show cause for the church departing from her *status quo*. If they can show good cause why changes should be made, then changes *must* be made. To do so becomes inevitable duty if the church is to be sincere and earnest; her *present* spiritual life ought to find clear expression. Far am I therefore from prejudging the question, a discussion properly conducted is what is now required, and under the guidance of God's good spirit will be productive of good. We shall ascertain thereby the true position of the church in doctrinal matters.

Professor Scrimger seems to be on safe ground, a large majority of our office-bearers doubtless agree with him. "I have personally no particular grievance against the confession * * * little is to be gained by re-vision." For most of us the confession is good enough as exponent of the sense in which we interpret the word of God. We say this, but we put no claim in for infallibility, or perfection as belonging to that symbolic book. It is of use and serves us fairly well, and that is all we expect from any human composition. Practically we find no difficulty. No one feels oppressed by the terms of subscription. If such were the case, these terms might be modified. Private members are not required to assent to the book or even to the system of doctrine therein set forth. Many who have not read, far less studied, this book say that it contains extreme doctrines, but no action for heresy is thought of in connection with such statements. On the contrary it is an open secret that not a little teaching in our Sabbath schools, at evangelistic services, and even in the pulpit, is tolerated, which offends well instructed Christians, and cannot in the exercise of the greatest charity be made to square with the doctrine of the confession. Even attacks upon Calvinism have been published by men who have professed assent to the