

disposed to monopolize as discoveries of their own, and as truths on which they alone have been honoured by the Head of the Church to maintain a testimony.

We now think that after the declaration of the Montreal Presbytery, in the truth of which we agree, and which we are prepared to show has been more than once held up to the Presbyterian Church, and uncourteously repelled,—the Free Church in this country ought to reply to the question, 'What is the real difference between themselves and us?' and that they ought to give an answer which they can prove, and also which we can admit; for it is altogether unaccountable to us that we should indeed be of one opinion on the very point which they consider "the principal, if not the only hindrance to union;" and yet that they should continue, unceremoniously, to doubt or deny it. If it be so, and we believe it is, they certainly must have allowed themselves to be egregiously deceived by the hasty and groundless calumnies which some of their own leaders have gratuitously propagated, and to our knowledge persist in, with unreasonable pertinacity, to this very day. Let them not suppose, as one of the boldest perverters of our sentiments has of late asserted, that we are changing our views, and coming round to them, though slowly; for it is not so, and it never will be so, if they are as far from us as he alleges. Ours are *established* views—established not by human laws, but by the Word of God; and we shall be happy to find, that after they have examined the subject calmly and candidly, they discover that in abstract principle we and they have been always the same. It would be gratifying, we think, to every right-minded Christian in the Free Church, as well as to ourselves, to find that the difference alleged to exist between us, exists not; and it should be considered an unbrotherly act if, as hitherto, any one of them should maintain that this alleged difference does exist. Why should they not believe us, unless it be that they still allow themselves to be misled by rash leaders whom they have not courage to resist, and who perhaps have no wish for union, and therefore no wish to come to the conclusion that there is no sufficient cause for the two Churches in this country remaining distinct? We should best know, and the best able to explain our own principles; and why should they not receive our explanations with Christian courtesy and candour, and refrain in future from putting constructions on our sentiments which we have always disclaimed? It is surely high time that our Free Church brethren were cooled down, and prepared to look at things as they are; and, professing reverence for the Scriptures, to judge and decide by enlightened reason, without being carried away by the over-heated imaginations of officious leaders. It would be gratifying to us, and not more than our due, and also honourable to our Free Church brethren, that some of the more intelligent and candid among them would plainly tell us what is the real difference between their views and ours. This they have never done; and from many unsuccessful attempts at doing it, we are almost of the opinion that it is a question which they cannot answer. We know it to be a fact that they have often made assertions by which our character as a Church has been grievously aspersed; and which they have neither been able to prove, nor had the honesty to retract. God seems to have sent them "strong delusion that they should believe a lie:" and we know that by them some of our own sentiments, which were probably the same as theirs, have been, without examination, recklessly condemned,—acting, as appeared to us, on the old proverb—"Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?"

When will the tide turn? When will the fears and the prejudices of our brethren be subdued by the kindly influence of Christian love? When will jealousies on both sides cease, and the right hand of Christian fellowship be mutually extended? Can any satisfactory answer be given to the question, 'What is the real difference between the two Churches?'

In what follows we shall only throw out a few hints, leaving it to those