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rash and precipitate in the movement they made, that they did not allow themselves time to read much on any side. Neither had they, as they themselves acknowledged, consulted any of their co-presbyters. This was highly inexcusable, considering the important practical bearing of the subject concerning which they were entertaining doubts, and considering also that many of their brethren were well qualified to give them all the information they could possibly require. Mr. Leach, indeed, says, "I think it extremely probable that I *would* have consulted some of the members of the Presbytery, could I have done so conveniently." But this only makes the matter worse, rather than better; for in a case of such importance, and especially if he had been very sorely pressed with doubts, it was surely his duty (and his privilege, too,) to have sought the counsel and direction of his brethren, even though it had been somewhat inconvenient. But living, as he did, almost in the very centre of the Presbytery, none of the brethren being farther than from thirty to forty miles from him, and the most of them not more than half that distance, he could have visited any of them at their own houses with very little personal inconvenience, and especially considering his almost insuperable longing for the country. Even this, however, he did not need to do, since convenience was so much studied; for he had frequent opportunities of meeting with the brethren, both at Church Courts and elsewhere during the summer and fall, and might have consulted them then with the greatest possible convenience, unless indeed he only began to entertain doubts after the last opportunity he had of seeing any of them; and if that was the case, it will go far to confirm the charge of rashness and precipitancy more fully.

On the whole it appears that the charge, brought against both of these gentlemen, of rashness and inconsiderateness in casting off their ordination vows, was well founded; and further, that if, during the exceedingly short transition state through which they passed, they were animated by the love of truth, their efforts towards the attainment of truth were in no way very remarkable.

Mr. Leach, in speaking to the charge of rashness and inconsiderateness in casting off his ordination, seems to think that those members of the Presbytery, who had a conference with him and Mr. Ritchie, must, in consequence, have known that he had bestowed some serious consideration upon the subject. This, however, was not the case. The principal thing put forward by him was the statement referred to in the Report of the Committee, that no Ordination of Ministers is valid but that conferred by a prelatial Bishop, coupled with the assertion that prelatial or diocesan Bishops were the successors of the Apostles, as superior officers in the church. These may not be his very words, but certainly they express his sentiments substantially and fully. These things were made so