

"I rejoice that this protracted case is likely to be finally settled this evening, and, I trust, to the satisfaction of those who have from the first followed a course which, if engaged in a good cause, would redound to their credit, but in the present case can only add to their shame. It is well known to the Elders of the Congregation and those members who have taken an interest in the proceedings in our Church Courts, that every effort was made by Dr. Burns to procure a decision in his favour and wipe away, if possible, the stains attached to his character, and redeem his credit with his brethren in the Province, tarnished by the repeated charges made against him by the Elders, Trustees, and others of the Congregation of his general character and conduct—these charges proved again and again even by the teachers of the Sunday School. Any sane mind would have imagined that the decisions of the Session, Presbytery, and Synod would have been a final settlement of all differences between the parties; but in place of being satisfied with the verdict of his own friends, he descends from the position of a minister of the Gospel, knowing that, unless the contest could be waged under a new guise, he must either carry out the finding of the Synod or cease to be the pastor of Knox's Church. Out of the two evils thus presented, the least would appear to be, the continuing the war and the enjoyment of his stipend.

"With these preliminary remarks, it now becomes my solemn duty to charge Dr. B. with concealing a conspiracy, the most disgraceful that ever tarnished the annals of a congregation of professing Christians, with the sole object of preventing two men from entering his session, lest they might follow an independent course of action, and thus run counter to the domineering spirit which has distinguished Dr. B. ever since he came to the Province."

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"In conclusion, after having reviewed the whole case, I am satisfied that in no instance have the interests of those who voted for me as an office-bearer of this church been placed in jeopardy, but have at all times defended them, often with much pain to myself and considerable encroachment on business hours. That my resignation is not now the result of clamour must be evident to all who have watched the proceedings from the first; but finding that a number of those who first voted for my election have signed the document now on the table, I am enabled for the first time to resign into their hands the trust committed to my charge. From henceforth I leave Dr. B., the Session, and Congregation to manage their business as they see fit."

The paper from which the above quotations are made is not the same with that referred to in my "reasons of protest" after the edict. Both of these papers, together with two of Mr. Campbell's, abound in most reckless assertions, and on the lowest estimate ought to be self-condemnatory of their authors. If the Presbytery intended a full investigation of the case, all these papers should have been produced, and then the question of my "*vexatious opposition*" would have appeared in its proper light.