

truth, and the increase of piety. He then called on the speakers to proceed.

The Rev. Mr BAYNE commenced the discussion.—Mr. Chairman and Brethren, he said, the occasion of our meeting, as you have just heard announced, has been the expressed desire by many of you to hear full explanations, from the mouths of persons deeply interested, of the causes which led to the late disruption in the Presbyterian Church in Canada, in connexion with the Church of Scotland, to hear the reasons which induced me to separate from that Church, and my reverend opponent, Dr. Liddell, to remain in its communion. It has been said, that some persons among us, from ignorance as to the true nature and grounds of the dispute, are unable to make up their minds with which party to ally themselves; and that others, from a like cause, have adopted their party without any true knowledge of the fundamental points on which they have differed. Under these circumstances, the learned Doctor and himself had agreed to appear before them that day, and endeavour to lay as calm, succinct, and intelligible a statement before them, as would enable each man clearly to make up his mind, and render a reason for the important step of adhesion or separation which he had adopted or might hereafter adopt. If any one had come there for a different purpose,—if any one was present with the expectation of witnessing a mere display of intellectual gladiatorship, he would depart miserably disappointed. If any one expected a display of angry feelings, or the angry collision of warm partizans, he also would be disappointed; for such outbursts of feeling or heat were entirely opposed to what he and his brother Dr. Liddell intended, which was, as he had already stated, to enable all who took an interest in the question to make up their minds fully, intelligibly, and as right-thinking and prudent men, and to adopt their course with a sufficient warrant that it was most agreeable to sound sense, the Word of God, and the Doctrines and precepts of the pure Presbyterian Church.

The subject of their discussion was one of the deepest importance. It involved the honour of Christ, and the welfare, purity, and utility of his Church in the Province. It was manifest to all, that both parties, being opposed to each other on essential points, could not be right. One of them must be doing the will of the Saviour, and the other fighting against him; and that they might discover which of the parties was right, and which in error, he entreated his auditors to purge their minds from prejudice, and come to the discussion with the single-minded object of hearing the truth, and acknowledging its power.

The question to be discussed is, Was the late disruption in the