

trary, did I not "knock on the head," as Mr. Mackay, one of the witnesses, expressed it, a proposal made to me by some parties to call a Congregational Meeting, for the very purpose of considering the rights and duties of the congregation in this very case? Surely it was enough for me to appear to be impartial in the matter. My feelings have at no time been absolutely dead in regard to it, but certainly I have succeeded wonderfully in keeping them so calm as not to interrupt the ordinary flow either of pulpit duty or of private ministrations.

The idea of my intending to constitute the teachers of my Sabbath School a court of discipline, in room of the Session, originates in misapprehension. I never dreamt of such a thing. I claim the Sabbath School as part of my pastoral charge. Mr. Pyper had been put over it as superintendent without my having been consulted or the Session, and in my absence from home. I did not allow my feelings on this account to prevent a recognition of him in the character of superintendent, because I knew him to be an able and spirited inspector of Sabbath Schools; but when the speech of Mr. Pyper was repeated to me by one in whom I had perfect confidence, and when Mr. Pyper himself did by no means disabuse me of the impression, I felt it to be a duty to myself and the congregation, to call for the resignation of one in whom I could not have confidence. I asked nothing more; and I maintain that a minister is entitled at any time, and for reasons less cogent, to resume the charge personally of the lambs of the flock. When Mr. P. refused to resign, and when the teachers sustained him in this, I asked them to satisfy themselves of the reasonableness of my request by bringing the parties face to face. This they, by a majority, refused to do; and ever since they have been in a state of rebellion against the pastor, whose assistants they affect to be. But had they acceded to my request, and made the enquiry asked, would this have interfered with the duties of the Session? Not in the least. If Mr. Pyper remained in communion with us, the enquiry on the part of the Session would have been so far facilitated; and if he left the congregation, the necessity of enquiry on the Session's part would have been superseded. As a private member of the Church, Mr. P. is responsible to the Church Courts; but just as in the case of the treasurer of a Bible Society, or of an agent in any religious association, his office of Sabbath School Superintendent added to him a new