

charge them with a wilful and bold perversion of the truth, by ascribing to Mr. Selden's note a meaning which they knew was inconsistent with the facts. The note runs thus:—"After you left the room last evening, the brethren came to the conclusion that in the present state of affairs it would not be right to tax you to fill the pulpit to-morrow." So far the note is in harmony with the action of the meeting, and with Mr. Selden's authority, and the effort to make it palatable is but evidence of the decisive character of the action of the meeting. The note proceeds. "With your concurrence, therefore, we propose to get Mr. Welton. Have the goodness to reply by bearer." Out of these words "concurrence" and "propose" the defence has been devised.

But as well the note itself as the existing circumstances at the time condemn the distorted construction which the Church coolly assumes as correct. The first sentence is confined to announcing the "conclusion" of the previous evening, that Dr. Pryor was not to preach. The second sentence informs him that it is proposed, with his concurrence, to invite Mr. Welton. This is coincident with the circumstances; for while the members of the Church who were acting in the matter, were decided against Dr. Pryor continuing to preach, and therefore could not allow the preaching to be subject to his concurrence, it was comparatively indifferent to them who should be his temporary substitute; and on this point Mr. Selden might, either of himself, or, knowing the feelings of other members, offer an option. Let it be remembered that the Reply does not venture to assert that Mr. Selden wrote his note with the meaning, and for the purpose since alleged. This would have thrown the responsibility of the assertion on him individually,—it is now distributed among them; and the story of consultation and concurrence is rested alone on the language of the note, and the bold assumption of an inconsistent and unexplained construction.

Dr. Pryor's reply shews in what sense he read Mr. Selden's note:

"Whatever the brethren decide upon, I, of course, assent to. It seems, however, not exactly in accordance with the usual custom. Will it not look as if my brethren thought me guilty?"

He, at least, interpreted the note to intimate to him an absolute decision, and he yielded to it, not of choice, but "of course." Then break out his feelings,—“It seems unusual. Will it not look as if my brethren thought me guilty?”

There is something touching in this note. It shows us conscious helplessness, struggling with a great wrong. "Of course I cannot resist, but what terrible injury will I suffer in consequence?"—this is the meaning that a feeling mind discerns. Granville Street Church sees only a consultation, a proposal, a concurrence!

But they were not left to discover his thoughts and feelings from Dr. Pryor's note only. After having sent it, he went to Mr. Selden's office, and, in the presence of him and several other members of Granville Street Church, earnestly remonstrated, even unto tears, against his exclusion from preaching, urging the ruinous consequences he apprehended,—but he remonstrated in vain. Yet with the knowledge