

DRAFT OF ANSWER, &c.

As those Ministers and Elders who have withdrawn from the Synod, have laid on the Table a Protest containing reasons for the step they have taken, and as that Paper has been by them sent forth to the public, the Synod deems it needful that it should be fully answered, so that the Members of the Church which has been so seriously affected by this movement, may be able to form an impartial judgment on the whole case. As the Protest is divided into a Preamble and Reasons, each of these divisions shall be taken up in its order.

The first position laid down in the Preamble is,—“Whereas
“the Church, as the Divinely constituted depository and guardian
“of revealed Truth, is specially bound to lift up Her testimony for
“those particular truths which are at any time endangered or over-
“borne by the antagonist powers of this world.”

It is not against particular truths, but against all the grand doctrines of the Gospel, that the world manifests its enmity. Nor is it easy to say which of these doctrines the World dislikes most. It may, however, be safely affirmed, that the peculiar doctrines of the Gospel have never been so deeply injured, nor so fatally overborne, by the enmity of the World, great as it is, as by the ignorance, vanity, and ambition of those who have held rule in the Church. It has been in the house of professed friends that Christ has been most deeply wounded. With these remarks, the principle as laid down by the Protesters is fully admitted.

But then how is this, or any other Church, to give effect to that principle. The simple answer assuredly is,—by unfolding, in its Standards, not particular truths, but the whole sum of saving knowledge, and by giving a faithful developement of it from its pulpits, and an exemplification of its practical principles in the lives of its members. The Church that acts thus, takes the best course, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to conserve Truth within its own pale; and repel the assaults of error, whether these be made by the men of the World or by Ecclesiastics. Although we would not be thought to under-rate occasional Synodical testimonies to particular truths, yet those who are sufficiently versed in Church History will be at no loss to advert to instances, both in ancient and more recent times, which but too plainly show, that Ministers;