

the enquiries they make ; if they are not so acquainted, we should, with feelings of the greatest brotherly kindness, recommend them to cultivate modesty and silence.

But, Sir, I wish for my own satisfaction and guidance to go further, and in *my* turn, to make some enquiries in reference to what may be the opinions and practice prevalent in the Free Church on certain points of some considerable importance. I freely acknowledge that it may be even my culpable ignorance which makes it necessary thus to enquire ; but I feel sure that you or some other kind friend, either in or out of the Free Church, will take pity on my darkness and afford the desired and much needed information. I understand that in a good number of churches there are somewhat different terms of communion for office-bearers, and for private members. This may, or may not be right. I should feel that there would at any rate be some difficulty in finding a defence for such a practice from the word of God. Be that as it may, however, there must be a certain limit to such distinction : there must certainly be *some* essentials the denial of which would close the door to the communion table, as well as to the pulpit or the elder's seat. Would you tell me then, Mr. Editor, whether or not, so far as you know, our Free Church friends regard this question of the Headship, as of a character so important, that any individual holding and avowing what may be called the general U. P. view of it, would according to the law and practise of the body be subjected on that account to discipline, and upon non-retraction be liable to excision ? If it be said *No*, I must be allowed to hold my own opinion in reference to many of the speeches which have been delivered ; if *Yes*, I cannot but wonder, at much of the practice which is being every day pursued. Still further, Sir, what am I to understand in reference to such a question as the extent of the atonement ? If there is one point upon which more than another our Free Church friends are in the habit of pluming themselves because of their unimpeachable orthodoxy it is this. I believe they cast out one of their number for holding what are called Morrisonian views, and ever and anon, the weaker men of their number in Scotland at any rate, have been ready to hint, and often very broadly, a doubt about the "soundness" of the U. P. Church on this very point. Now, Sir, is unsoundness on this subject, avowed and gloried in, defiantly obtruded on the notice of ministers and elders, regarded by the law and practice of the Free Church, as a sufficient bar to the communion table, as well as to the office of the ministry ? I should like that there be no uncertain sound on this subject, for I am quite sure that in some instances, at any rate, there is uncertain and somewhat questionable practice.

Will you allow me a word more ? No one can help being pained and saddened at the sight of the hideous prostitution of infant Baptism in many communions in this country. It seems as if it had its counterpart only in the wholesale baptisms of the man of old, with his mop and pail. Do the ministers of the Free Church adhere to the law of the subordinate standards, and baptize only, the children of such as are members of the visible Church ? If they do, do they regard all as members, who have themselves been baptized in infancy ?

Just another question, in the meantime, and I have done. Is it the law and practice of the Free Church to have in every case certain individuals legally bound for minister's stipend ? If so, with what object in view ? Supposing a congregation should fail to implement its engagements, are those men to be prosecuted in a court of law ? If not, what is the use of this legal bond ?

If I know my own heart, it is with no captious unbrotherly feeling I make these enquiries ; with no desire to retard or prevent a union which I think might be followed by results most notable and glorious, crushing down petty rivalries, and rendering impossible much proselytizing weakness ; giving a mighty impulse to evangelistic effort, and under the blessing of God, incalculably strengthening and consolidating Presbyterianism in the Province ; but because I feel that unless it be fully understood that the overtures for union made by