

this libel, have come to a decision acquitting Dr. Brown on them all. I trust that, after the patient and temperate investigation to which you have listened, in which the most perfect freedom of discussion on all sides has been allowed, the decision of your own mind has been in accordance with the unanimous decision of this court; or, if any hesitation remains, that candid and prayerful reflection will at length lead you to join with them in giving thanks for the issue to which this affair has been brought. And let me express my hope that this painful matter will afford to yourself, and to all of us, a lesson of forbearance and candour as to the conduct and the words of one another; and that before we proceed to impeach the one or the other, we will, in all cases, make sure that we do it after the most patient and candid enquiry, and on the clearest evidence."

Dr. Marshall, who seemed labouring under considerable emotion, then came forward, and said—"I have done what I felt to be my duty in the circumstances in which I am placed, a most painful duty, an overwhelming duty, a duty which I performed with a most afflicted heart, with deep anguish and tribulation of spirit. I felt that I was called upon to undertake this duty in Providence. It was laid upon me by you, whom I regarded as His instruments. I felt it was laid upon me by the great Lord, and I have humbly endeavoured to perform it in obedience to Him. I hope good will result from it. I have formed this anticipation from what has come under my notice just now. I offer no opinion on the finding of this Court. Perhaps it will be prudent in me to say nothing, yet I strongly felt that I was entitled to say that the case was not proceeded in regularly, nor brought to a regular issue. Your own form of procedure required, and, in my opinion, justice required, that you should first have proceeded to consider the relevancy of the libel—the relevancy count by count—ere you came to consider the probation. I would have been entirely satisfied if you had proved the whole, or even a part, relevant; and with respect to the probation, there is no man here, there is no man in this kingdom, would have rejoiced more to have seen Dr. Brown completely exculpated than I would. I have been taken at present somewhat by surprise, and am not prepared to speak, but I wish not to be understood that I have intimated my dissatisfaction with the finding of this Court."

Dr. Andrew Thomson now rose, and said—"Moderator, At the commencement of these protracted and momentous discussions, which have now terminated so happily, we implored the presence and guidance of Him whose name is 'Counsellor.' I believe that prayer has been heard, and that, amidst the evidences we have too often given, that we are men of like passions with others, there has not been wanting evidence also that the blessing of our Master has not wholly been withdrawn. It has been a painful process, but how peaceful, how blessed the result! To the presiding care of Him that heareth prayer we owe it. Is there one in this house who could have wished the result to be otherwise? I therefore propose that the Moderator call a member of Court to engage in prayer, and to give utterance to our deep feelings of gratitude in a voice of thanksgiving."

The Moderator then called upon Dr. Kidston, as the father of the Synod, to offer up thanks to Almighty God for the gratifying result of the Synod's deliberations, which the Rev. Doctor accordingly did, in a most appropriate and solemn prayer. The members of Synod then united together in sing-