

reply from me; for, though the writer says that he does not mean to "cast reflections on any one," the disclaimer is emphatically contradicted, by the whole scope and spirit of his letter. It is known to every member of Synod that I alone am responsible for the printing and distribution of the Minutes, and that, therefore, if unreasonable delay and inconvenience have occurred, I ought to bear the blame or be prepared to give explanations. I trust, then, that you will do me the justice of inserting the following statements in your next issue, and that they may have the effect of setting the matter in a somewhat more favourable light, as regards my action in the premises.

The original draft of the Minutes, written during the Session of Synod, was not put into the printer's hands for three reasons. 1. I did not choose to have it exposed to the risk of being destroyed or lost. 2. I required it as the means of correcting proofs. 3. Written, as it necessarily was, in haste, it was not in that finished state which would enable a compositor to proceed with his work with the facility and correctness which are desirable. For these reasons I was not ready for the printer the moment the Synod rose. I thought it necessary (as I have always done hitherto) to prepare a copy for the press, from which, as far as possible, all interlineations and other blemishes should be excluded.

The last Session of Synod closed, as your correspondent states, on the 17th June. Allow me to add, *late on Friday night*. I could not remain in town on Saturday to do any business. The duties of the Sabbath were before me. On Thursday of the next week, 23rd June, a fair copy of the whole of the Minutes, with the exception of Appendixes, was put into the printer's hands, with the express understanding that the work should be proceeded with immediately.

It is confessedly not easy to account for the delays which subsequently occurred. I have not been able to get any explanation satisfactory to myself, and I can only say that, as often as I urged haste, I was met with fair *promises*—promises, however, that remained unfulfilled. To have put the work into other hands, after it had made some progress, would have been attended with no little inconvenience, and would not have recalled the time which had been lost. It would, however, be to no profit to attempt giving a minute detail of the various steps in a very vexatious business. Suffice it to say, that, on the 10th of September, the printed Minutes came to me by Express, when I discovered that one page of the *Accounts*—through no fault of mine—had been so incorrectly executed that it became indispensable to have it reprinted. Though the order for this re-printing was given immediately, it was not until the 23rd September that I received the sheets—they having been detained, as it afterwards appeared, by the Express agents, for no less than seven days. The insertion of this corrected sheet required the re-stitching of the whole impression; and when, at last, I was upon the eve of making up the parcels for the mail, an important omission—for which I can-