

sound of his voice crying in a singularly shrill key, "silence," and repeating it in still more emphatic tones, "silence in the Court." Then when the vote was about to be taken he would call out in a slow drawling way, "Off-icer-shut-the-door." But it is impossible to do justice to the Doctor by any written description. It was necessary to see him and hear him in order to understand the full effect of his bearing, voice, and manner on these occasions. He was kind-hearted and much liked by all who knew him, was of a cheerful temper, and had a keen sense of the ludicrous. It was of his mother that the famous comedian Charles Matthews used to recite the story as told by her concerning her husband, who was a minister. A certain Dr. McGlashin had come to assist him, and declined ascending the pulpit until he had dried himself, upon which her husband jocosely replied,—"Gang ye up to the poopit, and ye'll be dry enough." This anecdote, told with all the maundevings of the good old lady, who was rather particular as to dates and other minutiae, was abundantly ludicrous, and none enjoyed it more than the Doctor himself. I regret very much that my notices of Dr. McKnight are so meagre, as I am sure there must be a number of interesting reminiscences respecting him unknown to me, for he lived to an advanced age. Unfortunately he became deranged in his latter years, and was laid aside from public duty.

Dr. Andrew Thomson was minister of St. George's, Edinburgh. At the time when he entered upon his charge, he was in the full vigour of manhood, and had given proof of his future eminence both as a preacher and as a debater in the Church Courts. In the former capacity, his abilities were of the first order. His style was terse, and quite free from obscurity. He had a fine musical voice, which he managed with admirable skill, and his manner was graceful and animated, sometimes in the impassioned parts of his discourse, approaching to vehemence. The grave, the pathetic, the argumentative, the satirical, the persuasive, were equally familiar to him, and he made them all subservient to his purpose. Dr. Thomson particularly excelled in lecturing. His Church was so well attended that every pew in it was occupied, and such crowds of strangers came to hear him that it was found necessary to lay down a rule that no strangers should be admitted until after the first prayer. This rule was rigidly enforced. Well does the writer remember waiting patiently in the vestibule of St. George's, until the Beadles made their appearance to admit strangers into the Church. St. George's had many attractions, a handsome commodious building, lighted principally from the top, fine music, and above all a popular preacher. Though Dr. Thomson had one of the most fashionable congregations in Edinburgh, yet his preaching was very faithful, and well calculated to rouse the most careless and worldly-minded of his hearers, whom he reproved fearlessly for their gaiety and devotion to worldly amusements. During the course of one winter in particular, he preached two singularly impressive sermons from the words, "Lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God," which were afterwards published with an appendix, containing copious notes illustrative of the subject. These discourses were greatly blessed to the conversion of some, and in checking the reckless spirit of gaiety which had seized upon all ranks, more especially on the fashionable congregation of St. George's. The "Row heresy" as it was called, by which many good people were led astray, also called forth Dr. Thomson's strength. He preached a course of sermons against the favorite Row doctrine of "Universal Pardon." These were likewise published, and were much admired for the soundness of their views, and the mildness and justice of their strictures.

The Doctor was distinguished not only as a pulpit orator, but also as a debater and a public speaker. On the platform he could electrify an audience, as he did at the great Edinburgh anti-slavery meeting in 1833. In the Church Courts, and especially the General Assembly, Dr. Thomson was very conspicuous. He was