

those few men were to the fore in every movement, working together.

Robertson Smith, indeed, remained a perfervid Scot, and to the end Aberdeen remained for him the hub of the universe. Most noticeable was his parsimony in small things, his lavish generosity in great. I remember vividly a characteristic incident. Shipley had his rooms—about the most lovely rooms in Cambridge—immediately beneath Robertson Smith, and for a year or more endured the creaking of Robertson Smith's thick soled slippers as he paced actively, not to say impatiently, to and fro over the floor above—until he could endure no more. Time and again sitting in those rooms I heard the noise and could thoroughly sympathize. At last he gathered up courage to complain, and with great good-will Robertson Smith consented to get another, quieter, pair. But presently the same old creaking recommenced—and on another expostulation Smith confessed that it was the identical offenders that were at fault: he was convinced that he could not get shoes of as good make and at the same (inconsiderable) cost in Cambridge, and was waiting until he could next visit Aberdeen.

We must all confess that the life academic tends to withdraw those indulging in it into a little world of their own, remote from the interests which animate the larger world outside. We see this in a university in a large city. It is more strongly marked in universities like Oxford and Cambridge, situated in country towns. There the engrossing and contracting nature of the don's existence tends to make not the university but the college, the all in all of his being. As I have already indicated, the Society at Christ's from its very constitution showed these tendencies less than perhaps any other body of Fellows in Cambridge. But saying this I must admit that Robertson Smith brought the outer world into the college and broadened the interests of every member of the Fellows' table in a very remarkable way. Not to mention the leaders of thought from other colleges whom he brought to Hall, each week-end there would be a visitor or