

a different theological quarter were unhappily to dawn upon his mind he would pray to be delivered from temptation. But for Protestants, authority having lost its hold and penalties being unavailable, a new rationale must be found. To this task the *Canada Presbyterian* addresses itself: "A creed," it says, "of any kind is not a thing for truth-seekers but for those who say they have been so far truth-finders." That no doubt is the only theory consistent at once with morality and private judgment. Yet can it be really supposed that an English or Scotch student by the time he is of age to be ordained has himself found all the truth in the Thirty-nine Articles or the Westminster Confession? Surely not. Besides it has further to be assumed that the process of thought which has brought him exactly at the same moment with other students of the same standing to the precise line of the creed, will there spontaneously end, and that the set of convictions which he has found will be not only conscientious but final, which in this world of doubt and controversy is assuming a good deal. To the Roman Catholic priest free enquiry after ordination, as well as before it, is a sin; but to the Protestant it is at all times and throughout life a duty; such at least is the principle of Protestantism, and the duty surely is not cancelled in the case of one who not only professes to be a truth-seeker himself but to show others the way to truth. The *Canada Presbyterian* proceeds to describe a creed as "the means of establishing mutual confidence among individuals and of rendering co-operation in a common cause both possible and productive of good results." This is a different idea from truth-seeking or truth-finding; and we get still further away from those notions when we introduce that of a "copartnership" or "contract" by which the clergyman is bound. The more honest a man is the less difficulty he will have in being faithful to a contract even though he may have ceased to think it advantageous to him, but the more difficulty he will have in continuing to profess a creed when he has ceased to find it true. "His course is clear," says the *Canada Presbyterian*, "let him dissolve partnership