

depth, of reverence, of solemn pathos and of strong endurance, with the accompaniment sometimes of austerity and narrowness by which it has been thought to be characterized. The attainment itself is from God. Its origin, as has been already said, is divine ; but it takes its colour largely from the soil in which it grows, even as the partridge from the heath in which it builds its nest and rears its young : and it were as unreasonable to expect religious life to wear in Scotland the bright and lively character which it seems natural for it to possess in France and in Italy, as to expect the foliage under its so often sunless skies to show the deep scarlet and purple of our autumn woods.

I mention next as an important, perhaps the most important, factor in moulding the religious life of the Scottish people, the *system* of Christian doctrine which at the time of the Reformation they were led to adopt,