

## PRINCIPAL GRANT

opposition, were his attacks on the coldness, faint-heartedness, and bigotry of the clergy, on their willingness to rest contented in vain repetitions of formulæ which had lost all relation to the real life of the community, on the worldly wisdom which masked itself as piety. Preaching in 1866 to the assembled synod, he says:—

“Ministers the especial agents in this work of the regeneration of men, did I say! Surely I am wrong—that is not their part in the present day. The minister's duty now is to give no offence to saint or sinner; to tread delicately lest he offend delicate sensibilities; to make much of the people, and by indirect flattery make them think well of themselves that they may think well of him; to be, in a word, an amiable, harmless creature, a dignified and respected wind-bag, from which shall proceed at regulation intervals sounds that shall be accepted as thunder, thunder without lightning, thunder warranted to hurt nobody. The minister's work now is to crush his manhood out of him; to have no opinions which differ from those entertained by any one he meets, and to have no opinions at all on matters of real life; to strike at the vices of the absent, of other classes, other times; to echo the cuckoo note of a barren orthodoxy, to strain at the gnats of heresy, and to be suspicious of scientific criticism and free thought. No, in the name of the living God, a thousand times no. Ministers are—ought to be—‘labourers together with God,’ stew-