

Aberdeen, his congregation soon increased, but it consisted almost exclusively of the representatives of wealth and rank in the neighbourhood. He wished to see more of the humbler classes, for he believed he had a message to them. The doctrinal system of Calvin, which was then so prevalent in Scotland, appeared to him as a limitation of the mercy of God. He might have gone into the Established Church of Scotland but for the rigid Calvinism of the Westminster Confession, which he used to contrast with the words of the Church of England Catechism, "God has redeemed me and all mankind." In 1842, Mr. Ewing wrote, "My brethren, we should all remember, in answer to the suggestions by which we may be assaulted, that Christ died for all men; that if God is not mocked, neither doth He mock us; that salvation is offered to all; that on the cross hung Jesus, the only Son of God beloved, and with God ere the world was, and that from this cross flowed mercy enough for all the sins of all the universe;* and that God, who spared not for us His only Son, but gave Him up to the death for all, will surely with Him give us all things. This is the answer to devils, and worlds, and men, and an answer full and complete, and enough for every man, although he knew that three or four only would accept God's salvation out of the millions of creation." Further on it is said that Christ did not come to save us from *the punishment of sin*, but from *sin itself*. The first three years of Mr. Ewing's ministry were years on which he could always look back with pleasure. His health was at its best, he had few troubles, his work was agreeable to him, and he had used his time well for mental and spiritual progress.

Under date February 14, 1844, we read in his diary, "I made this day a covenant or renunciation to God of all my own cares and anxious thoughts concerning what He gave me and what he alone can protect. He bids us do so, when it is said, 'Casting all your care upon Him,' or 'Come unto me, all that travail.' Thus only can we cease to be careful and troubled about many things. And so, O most mighty Saviour, I resign all to Thee, to undertake and provide for me, and manage better

*That Mr. Ewing here misunderstood the meaning of the *Westminster Confession*, and misrepresented its spirit, is evident from the following remarks of Dr. Hodge, who taught the very theology of that Confession. Writing on the question, "For whom did Christ die?" Dr. Hodge says in his "Theology," (Vol. II., p. 544) "The question does not concern the value of Christ's satisfaction. That Augustinians admit to be infinite. Its value depends on the dignity of the sacrifice; and as no limit can be placed to the dignity of the Eternal Son of God, who offered himself for our sins, so no limit can be assigned to the meritorious value of his work. . . . What was sufficient for one was sufficient for all. . . . Nothing more would have been required had every child of Adam been saved by his blood."