

Doctor, hear what the minister of Free St. George's, Edinburgh, says. You know Whyte, or you have heard of him; and you know that, for orthodoxy, even you cannot show a better certificate; you know that he has forgotten more about Dods and his Church than you and all the Conference Hill speakers ever heard of; and you know that it would be a very unsafe thing for you to call him any of the hard names you apply to other respectable brethren. You know all this, Doctor. Now, read Dr. Whyte's address and then reckon how small a man must be who can deliberately and repeatedly abuse and malign such a man of God and slander and vilify such a noble Church. Do you think such a man would be visible to the naked eye?

Here are a few pregnant sentences: "The task the New Testament exegete is set to do in our day, and the methods and instruments he must apply to fulfil his task, all demand a mind of the first order, and of a strength and an equipment that very few among us can possess. Dr. Dods, by his Masters' liberality to him, and by his splendid loyalty to his Master's trust, possesses that mind, and its fit preparation, and the General Assembly has only *followed her Master's dear leading* in taking the step she has taken. . . . It would be unpardonable blindness to fine work, laboriously and skilfully executed, had we passed by our hard-working brother. . . . I, for one, am proud that the Free Church has had the insight to see and the courage to acknowledge Dr. Dods' essential, if sometimes unconventional, loyalty to evangelical truth. . . . Men who love neither his Church nor the truth he has been raised up to teach, are at present crowding round our friend, and making him their champion and their boast. Our new Professor is broad; but his breadth is not theirs any more than his depth. His breadth goes out on a plane as much higher than theirs as his depth goes down deeper than theirs. But because his studies and his style have sometimes led him to say some things that sounded to their ears not unlike their own unhallowed language about Holy Scripture, they have held him up as their ally and their champion. A passing misunderstanding also with some of his own brethren has, for the moment, made Dr. Dods an immensely popular man in quarters where popularity and patronage must be a sufficient chastisement and a real humiliation. But as time goes on and his true and untarnished loyalty to his Church, her Scriptures, and her Standards comes more clearly out, may we not hope that the authority of his judgment and the attractiveness of his character may yet win over many of such men also to the knowledge and the love of the truth?"