

satisfactory way with cases of heresy," he is guilty of a construction which the compilers of our Standards never contemplated. Dr. McCrie, in his *Annals of English Presbytery*, quotes Dr. Anthony Tuckney, who had a principal share in their compilation, as opposed to subscribing them as a term of ministerial communion. "For the matter of imposing upon," says he, "I am not guilty. In the Assembly I gave my vote with others, that the Confession of Faith put out by authority should not be required to be either sworn or subscribed to—our having been burnt in the hand by that kind before." The Assembly itself said, "Our brethren (the independents) misinterpret our intentions; for we desire no more imposed on our people than they in that case do in theirs, namely, that they appear to us to be orthodox." Richard Baxter wrote, "I hope the Assembly intended not all that long Confession and those Catechisms to be imposed as a test of Christian communion, nor to disown all that scrupled every word of it. If they had I could not have commended it for any such use." Referring to old minutes of Presbytery dealing with ordinations, Dr. McCrie says, "Neither in this nor any other document of the period does it appear to have been the practice of English Presbyterians to exact from ministerial candidates a subscription or formula of assent to the Confession of Faith or other Westminster Standards. In place of this was substituted the personal confession of the candidate." Struthers, in his *History of the Relief Church*, says, "The common mode of signing the Confession of Faith at that period (1718-50) was in a very general way, and the subscriber was not understood to be bound by every iota which the Confession contained," of which he gives illustrations. There is thus ample precedent for protesting against Dr. Beattie's interpretation of the use of subordinate standards.

Dr. Beattie echoes the harshest and most mechanical of ecclesiastical utterances when he says, "if you are dissatisfied with these standards, leave the church or procure their revi-