

discovered principles which, as they imagined, had only to be acted on to restore religion to the throne of the Empire. With no historical insight into the causes which had left these peculiar sorrows in the stratification of the church, like fossils of an earlier age, they conceived that the secret of the church's strength lay in the priesthood and sacraments and that the neglect of them was the secret of its weakness." If we leave out of this quotation the words "a knot of Oxford scholars" and change the "Church of England" into the Church of Scotland, the passage is an accurate description of the movement inaugurated by the "Scottish Church Society." Apart from the nature and objects of the Society, the question has arisen: "Whether the formation of such societies within the church is legitimate. What of the church courts? Is not all this their business? Or, Is this a confession and a proclamation that Presbyterianism is a failure? Do the members of this Society wish not to say but to insinuate, that they have ceased to believe in Presbytery—which all believe in—though some want something added? What becomes of the Divine model? Is man's expedient better than God's appointment? In such ways and in many other ways do men speak and have men spoken of this Society. Our office is to present the principles so as to judge for ourselves. Removed as we are from the scene of conflict, it may be possible for us to view the whole movement more dispassionately than if the society had sprung up within our own bounds.

The Sc Ch. Society has called forth unfriendly criticism by peculiarities which may be unavoidable but which are very conspicuous. When it calls old things by new names, it suggests that something else is now meant by those names, or when it exalts objects, the importance of which have not been denied to any extent, it implies that these objects have been grievously neglected, or when it states things nakedly and without explanation, just where explanation is needed, it suggests to the reader cautious reserve.

When the document says less, the reader may impute more than the truth. Even the heading, "objects" is misleading, because novel. The term suggests practical matters rather than such as are theoretical; but here doctrine and duty, theory and practice are mingled together. Mystical opinions, church views