

riages. After the sermon, the procession formed again, and proceeded to the Assembly Hall, the arrival of the commissioner being announced by a salute of 21 guns.

All the dignitaries being properly seated, the Assembly was opened by prayer by Dr. Phin. After roll-call, Dr. Phin announced that the business now before the Assembly was to elect a moderator, and he nominated "the Very Rev. Dr. Tulloch," who was declared elected. Then the letter of the Queen announcing the appointment, of the Earl of Roslyn as lord high commissioner was read, and the Earl made the usual address to the "Right Reverend and Right Honorable," assuring them of the Queen's "intention maintaining unimpaired the Presbyterian faith and form of church government in this country," and presenting her annual gift of \$2,000 for the promotion of religious instruction in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. After this a deputy clerk was selected and sworn in, and the Assembly, having passed through the long preliminary ceremonial, proceeded to the business of the appointment of the usual committees, which closed the first day's session. On the second day the committee on Jewish missions reported that, while the work had been successfully prosecuted, the contributions had fallen off greatly. The committee on Christian life and work reported on church attendance, missions, licentiousness, etc. Dr. Macleod said the great causes of non-attendance at church were social degradation and skepticism and religious indifference. On Monday the Assembly received and discussed the report of the committee on education and heard an appeal cause.

The Assembly of the Free Church met in Glasgow, after the interval of thirty-five years. Dr. Andrew A. Bonar, who had been selected as moderator by the commission was elected to that office, succeeding Dr. Goold. An address to the Queen was ordered, and in the evening the members of Assembly attended a *conversazione*. Nothing of importance came before the Assembly until Monday, when the appeal in Prof. Robertson Smith's case came up. It will be remembered that the libel against the Professor contained three counts: (1) the

publishing and promulgating of opinions which contradict or are opposed to doctrines set forth in the Scriptures and the Confession of Faith; (2) the publishing and promulgating of opinions which are in themselves of a dangerous and unsettling tendency in their bearings on doctrines set forth in Scripture and the Confession; and (3) the publishing of writings concerning the books of Scripture which, by their neutrality of attitude in relation to doctrines set forth in Scripture and the Confession and by their rashness of statement in regard to the critical construction of the Scriptures, tend to disparage the divine authority and inspired character of these books. The Presbytery of Aberdeen agreed to substitute the words "contradict or are opposed to" for "subvert" in the first count. The prosecutors appealed to the Synod, which sustained the Presbytery. The latter found the eight particulars under first count irrelevant. Appeals on seven of these were taken to the Synod, which referred them to the Assembly. The second count was found relevant by the Presbytery; but the Synod, on appeal, reversed the judgement. The third count was not considered. The first appeal in reference to the dropping of the word "subvert" was withdrawn by Principal Brown and all the other appellants but one, on the ground that, if the appeal were successful, it would greatly complicate the case. Mr. Patterson refused to join with them, and proceeded to support his appeal. But, without hearing the other side, the Assembly voted not to sustain the appeal. The appeals on the first and second particular charges were then argued, on the one side by Principal Brown, and on the other by Mr. Iverach and Prof. Salmond. Prof. Smith spoke for himself. The Assembly unanimously decided to sustain the decision of the Presbytery and dismiss the appeal on *primo*, which has reference to the Aaronic priesthood; on *secundo* which charges heresy respecting the inspiration of Deuteronomy, on motion of Sir Henry Moncreiff, who seems to carry the Assembly always with him, the following decision was adopted by a vote of 301 to 278:

"The General Assembly sustain the