

When one enters the Established Church he feels he is in a different atmosphere. In a discussion on the Union question last year, Dr. Wallace Williamson said that the chief difference was in viewpoint and temper. This is true. We have not the space to discuss all the points of difference. But in the parish churches more attention is given to the form of worship. They aim at a richer devotional service. Yet they do not over-emphasize it. And the charge that this great church is going over to ritualism in the sense in which that word is understood in England, is pure nonsense.

The writer had the privilege of hearing Dr. Williamson conduct a pre-communion service in St. Giles Cathedral and receive new members into full communion. Nothing could be more comprehensive than his address. The privileges of communion and all that they may mean to the soul were brought out with the utmost clearness and tenderness. The true pastor's heart was felt in every sentence. Nothing vital was overlooked. Then his reception of his new members was by far the finest service of the kind that we have ever attended. It embodied all that the step ought to mean to the new communicant, and was a real confirmation in the best sense of the term.

Another preacher of note in the Established Church is Dr. R. H. Fisher of Morningside. Probably no preacher in Edinburgh has gifts more truly popular. The old truths are expressed in such a way that they strike and stick. A sermon that we heard on "The Brazen Serpent" was a most original treatment of a well-worn theme, and yet its central truths were forcibly driven home.

There are many other outstanding preachers whose work we cannot here discuss. MacGregor, of Free St. Andrew's; Black, of Broughton Place, brother of Hugh Black, of New York; Drummond, of Lothian Road; Forrest, of North Morningside, a great scholar and practical preacher; Duncan, of St. Cuthbert's; Wallace, of the Tron Kirk, are all men of might in Edinburgh's religious life. And there are many others. One acquainted with both the past and present generation of preachers has said that the average was never so high. To which we may add that the vital truths of Christianity were never more loyally preached.

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### The True Church

Creeds and confessions? High Church or the Low?

I cannot say; but you would vastly please us

If with some pointed Scripture you could show

To which of these belonged the Saviour, Jesus.

I think to all or none. Not curious creeds

Or ordered forms of Churchly rule He taught,

But soul of love that blossomed into deeds,

With human good and human blessing fraught.

On me nor priest nor presbyter nor pope,

Bishop nor dean, may stamp a party name;

But Jesus with His largely human scope

The service of my human life may claim,

Let prideful priests do battle about creeds,

The church is mine that does most Christ-like deeds.

—Professor John Stuart Blackie.