

was a good thing to turn to the men who had been doing that kind of thing on a large scale for a generation. Glasgow discovered that long ago. It is forty years since Sir James Marwick was appointed Town Clerk of Glasgow. He made his own terms. He received a salary of \$25,000 a year; he could not be dismissed; he could retire whenever he pleased on an allowance of \$17,000 a year. A whole council of careful Scotchmen entered into an agreement such as that and it was a brilliant success. Men who believed as a matter of theory in equality secured the best lawyer and publicist of his time and told him they wanted his criticism and expected him to keep them out of hot water. It was the paradox of radicalism. But the peculiarity of democracy is that it sets up an absolute monarch and is best pleased when its monarch is most absolute. What it claims is the right to choose its man.

IV.

Unquestionably this trend of public life has been aided in Scotland by *the position of the minister and of the church*. Every division in the Presbyterianism of Scotland has had to do with the rights of the people in the appointment of the minister, and patronage now is entirely dead. The minister who in Scotland has so strong a position is invariably a man of the people. There is no such gap between him and his flock as there is between the clergyman in England of gentle birth and of Oxford training and the congregation of agricultural labourers over whom he is supposed to watch. He may do his duty never so faithfully, but he is always a man apart, because there is nothing between him and the people that is common unless it be his faith. There is none of the community of upbringing, nor does he expect in his people a community of religious interest. When I began my ministry in the uplands of Ayrshire, the vestry was invaded at the conclusion of every evening service by a number of keen theologians who disagreed with the theology, or had some fresh light to throw on it, or some new reading to give of a relevant text. One had to be prepared for anything, a weaver with the Greek Testament at his finger ends or another with the "Fourfold