

his late years wandered from orthodoxy, Robertson Smith had no means of knowing. He realized that the article did not represent prevailing opinion, and submitted it in proof to Sir Andrew Clarke, and other leaders of the profession. Unfortunately these did not realize the seriousness of the occasion. It so happened that not one of them could, or did, point out where the errors lay, and as they failed him, he had perforce to publish the article as it stood.

But to return to his conversation. Let me admit that he was a monologist, but so varied in his range that never for one moment was it possible to regard him as a bore; merely he dominated the conversation. It must, however, be admitted that he had the failing of some other monologists—of Macaulay for example—that if another reputed conversationalist was invited to Hall and so poached upon his preserves, it was either the one or the other that entertained the company, but not both.

Nor did the conversation degenerate into “shop.” It was an unwritten law at Cambridge, even among us as undergraduates, that at Hall and in general conversation “shop” was taboo. The theologian might talk on classics but did not degenerate into theology, unless a direct opinion was invited from him, the classical scholar might freely become historical, the medical student was absolutely forbidden to discuss bones or insides generally. And so it was in the Combination room. It was a charming and suave company, Sharkey, the classical scholar, now, alas, dead, most often presiding as senior Fellow; Hobson and Greaves the mathematicians; Armitage Robinson the college chaplain and teacher in divinity, later Lady Margaret professor and Dean of Westminster; Shipley the zoologist, now Master of the College, widely read and an admirable *raconteur*; Brown the astronomer, now Professor at Yale; Fitzpatrick the physicist, now president of Queen’s; W. H. D. Rouse, the classical scholar, now pedagogue; not to mention the Master, John Peile, the sanskritist; Francis Darwin (now Sir Francis), the botanist, and James Cartmell, the Senior Tutor; Seymour