

earliest youth these principles were imbibed from the 'Cloud of Witness,' and other kindred works. And time and mature reflection, wholly undisturbed by the heats and collisions of party warfare, only tended to strengthen my conviction of their scriptural character, and to rivet the persuasion of their paramount importance to the spiritual interests of man."

And again :—

"Doubtless, had I yielded to those alluring worldly temptations, which were chiefly on one side ; or had I allowed carnal considerations of any kind to prevail against the sense of duty, and the clear dictates of conscience, there were many plausible, ready-made, pretexts on which I might fall back,—many open-gated refuges into which I might retire, in order to palliate my tergiversation, screen my inconsistency from public view, conceal from others, and perhaps from myself, the secret actuating motives, and operate as a soporific on the troublesome mementoes of the inward monitor. But however convenient such a course might be for a season,—however soothing and flattering to the cravings of the natural man, how could it elude the piercing scrutiny of the all-seeing eye, or stand in arrest of judgment at the bar of the Great Assize ?"

The following pointed passage I recommend to those among our adhesionist brethren who seem to think that connexion with the Established Church does not involve the guilt of conformity and compromise of principle. It seems as if the passage had been written with the express intention of being applied to the case, and to the consciences of these brethren.

One of the grounds, it may be remembered, on which the Residuary Committee endeavoured to convince them that they ought to remain in connection with the Establishment was, that their post being a peculiar one—one in which they were not practically called on to engage in perpetrating acts of intrusion, or in submitting to decrees and decisions of the Civil Courts in spiritual matters, their consciences could not be violated in remaining. On this Dr Duff remarks :—

"What is this but a wretched evasion, worthy of being forged in the mint of self-interest or carnal expediency. Not *practically* implicated in such acts of perpetration and submission ! What of that,—if, as corporate members we are and must be *potentially* implicated,—is it not morally the same thing ? Take an extreme case, merely for the sake of illustration. In India there is a terrible association of professional murderers called Thugs, affiliated by the religious and social relations which constitute the atrocious system of Thuggee. Now, suppose a conscience-smitten Thug to declare that he now utterly recoils from the principles and the