

up to this fact, and are suspicious that by such a step the whole position of the Church of Scotland is brought into danger. One cannot but feel that such men naturally have no great objection to privilege and are beginning to fear that their Committee has at least gone too precipitately. There is need for careful and deliberate explanation on the part of the Committee as to what the Articles imply and as to the larger aims they are meant to serve.

One needs to remember that on such questions as are involved in these Articles the United Free Church is more of one mind than its sister Church, for the simple reason that the questions have been so constantly discussed there. The Church of Scotland has not needed to debate or to declare its mind on these matters. Hence the United Free Committee has been able to speak and act with greater certainty as to its ability to carry its Church with it.

On a certain side, however, the United Free Church Committee is sure to meet with difficulty among the members of its own Church. It will be noted that in the Articles there is no mention made of the endowments, teinds and other properties which belong to the Church of Scotland, and that nothing is said as to what is to be done with these in the event of the Articles being accepted by Parliament. Naturally silence on such a question has roused the suspicion of what may be called without offence the political Churchman. There are a large number of men in the United Free Church who are a little weary of the long discussions on spiritual independence, but who will rouse themselves to eager interest whenever the question of the teinds is reached. Spiritual independence is apt to seem to them an academic affair, but endowments concern practical issues, dear to the hearts of practical men.

I do not profess to know how the Executive Committees propose to deal with this thorny subject, but the likelihood is that the Church of Scotland will claim and obtain freedom for itself with the implicit surrender of all privilege, and that the questions as to property and specially as to teinds will be left as purely political questions which the people of Scotland are to