

them from the Pastors and Ministers of the church. In the Church Courts of the Presbyterian communities in many lands, a place of the highest influence has been given to and occupied by representative Elders or lay commissioners, and their counsels have had much to do with the decisions arrived at by the assembled wisdom of Synod and Assembly. Such men upheld the hands of Luther, Calvin, Knox, and other reformers. They bore the brunt of persecution in the dark days of French and Scottish protestantism, and when the day came to sheath the sword, they still maintained the good fight with pen, and purse, and active effort of a peaceful kind.

There is something worthy of admiration in devotion, pure and simple, of esteem in that which has a right object before it, of reverence in that which is joined to the sacred name of religion. We honour the men of old, superstitious and wrong-minded as they were, who sought in monkish seclusion to mortify the flesh that the spirit might be wholly given to God; or those who gave up all to follow the red cross flag to Palestine; or the Jesuits earnestly seeking for the martyr's crown among savage hordes farther away from home. Nay more, we look to old Emperors who performed for the man whom they deemed Christ's Vicar, menial offices before assembled multitudes, and say the heart is right although the head is far wrong. If the motto "I serve," be a noble one, most noble must its application to the service of the Church be—that Church which is Christ's body—the fulness of Him that filleth all in all.

We have Ministers who serve the Church, who put the great yoke often upon feeble necks, and drag a load beyond their power, till, falling in harness, they find in the next world the reward that never met them here. A few devoted laymen also are found willing to labour and endure misrepresentation, and contradiction for the sake of the Church's Head; but the majority of the lay workers presume to patronize the Church, to take it under their wing, to give it a share of their attention, to call too often for devotion from it, rather than to render to it that devotion. There is little regard for Jerusalem, unless he who regards can be king or prince in it. Exaltation in her palaces, and not the city itself, is esteemed beyond the chiefest joy of him who, under the pretext of seeking the good of Zion, fights for his own way in her assemblies great and small. What right have the orthodox of to-day, who display such unamiable characteristics, to sneer at wrong heads of the past, that misled hearts more loyal and true, more patient and self-denying than the very best of them? Our light is better, but our fire is very much lower than that which blazed with a fierce, smoky heat in the days of old, particularly as found among our laymen. Let Church Courts tell the tale; let missionary meetings and schemes disclose the names of their speakers and founders; let miserable stipends point out a contributor who has denied himself for the Gospel's sake. Men make the Church a plaything, a Sunday amusement, to be kept in order, by an occasional exertion on other days, an object of devotion inferior to business and recreation, family and friends. The Minister says that the Church is Christ in the world, and that all heart, and soul, and mind, and strength should be united in devotion to Him, but the majority prefer attempting to serve Christ in some other way than through the Church.

Devotion is found in most men, I had almost said in all. Now comes the question for each man and woman in the Church, "What is the object of my devotion?" For what am I willing to brave dangers, endure scorn, deny myself? It lies between the Church and the world. The former en-