

liberty of the church and also full effect at the same time to our own cherished ideal of the national and representative character of the church, I cannot for one moment believe that the question of endowments will block progress along the path."

Speaking for his side in the Assembly of the United Free Church, Dr. Henderson said: "..... We are called together to make a momentous decision, a decision which cannot fail to have a profound effect, not only upon the two churches which have been in conference, and which are both considering this matter today, but also upon the future of our country. We did not set this task to ourselves, it came to us in a day when we were not looking for it, and certainly not seeking it. . . . we must not let ourselves forget that it was with the definite purpose, and with the highly honourable desire to effect, if possible, a union with the Church of Scotland that they sent us this Memorandum. As they themselves stated, a Union was impossible between the two churches except on the basis of entire spiritual freedom, and having said so, they went on to tell us that they were quite aware that their existing constitution, as we said, was the main cause of separation, and while they could go on doing their work with good conscience, they recognized that it was impossible for us with our principles and our views of duty to join them in that position, and to co-operate with them on these lines. Therefore, they said, for the sake of union, in view of the ecclesiastical situation throughout the land, and the needs of the land, they were prepared to obtain a new constitution which would fully satisfy the conception of the United Free Church as regards spiritual freedom. That was what they said they wished to do, and they sent us the Memorandum, not as an ultimatum—a thing which was definitely unalterable—but inviting us to consider it with them, if along the lines which it suggested it might be possible to reach such a practical agreement as we could unite upon, to work together for the good of the land." With these words Dr. Henderson concluded a very lucid and well reasoned out speech. "We cannot expect them to come in a spirit of penitence and to say that their fathers were all wrong and ours all right; we will not intrude as dictators in the framing of a constitution, and we will help with information and suggestion. To make restrictions of any kind at this stage would fetter the committee. Send us back to unrestricted conference with our brethren, and perhaps by God's help we will be able to feel our way to closer union. This is the way towards true religious equality