

of subjects of prime importance was presented at this Glasgow meeting, and the volume of proceedings should be read by all our people. It will prove instructive and helpful, especially to persons of pessimistic tendency, who are prone to think that Presbyterianism is waning and has seen its best days. No, these are yet to come, when our polity and doctrine are thoroughly purged from impurity, and their apostolic catholicity and spiritual power are more widely felt and acknowledged.

With so much to commend in the late Council, it may seem ungenerous to mention drawbacks. There were such, however, and they are here named, not for the sake of fault-finding, but in the hope that they may not be repeated in future.

The great St. Andrew's Hall, admirable no doubt for musical festivals, was anything but comfortable for speakers and hearers. It deserves, in this respect, to rank with Exeter Hall, London. Owing to imperfect acoustics and feeble and not too articulate enunciation, excellent speeches were lost in a large degree to the bulk of the audience. The time allowed for discussion was altogether too limited. This was a great disappointment and hardship to members who had travelled thousands of miles to express their views, as well as to citizens who wished to hear them. Some valuable time was unhappily consumed in hearing and disposing of objections to instrumental music. The upshot was that an overwhelming majority of the Council magnanimously, as it was said, yielded to the scruples of a small handful. The organ was silenced and the choir disbanded. The discord which followed in the service of praise I shall not attempt to describe. To persons of musical taste and culture it was simply distressing, and how such singing could be edifying to any is beyond my comprehension. Is it right to allow the scruples of a few well-meaning brethren to rule rather than sanctified common sense? Majorities have surely rights and sensitive consciences as well as minorities.

The subject which elicited the keenest interest was that of