

or in moulding the Free Church after the formation of that important body. On several occasions, however, he delivered able speeches on the topics of the day, and in various lectures and essays he expounded the principles of the Disruption with ability and eloquence. In the Canadian Church his influence was decisively felt in many important discussions, but he avoided any undue prominence in the Church courts, though he most faithfully and ably discharged whatever duties they laid upon him. The minutes of synod show that he bore a highly useful and honorable part in the deliberations of that body, and many an important deliverance was framed by his skilful hand. During the greater part of its progress he strenuously opposed the movement which resulted in the Union of 1861 ; but the writer of this notice may be allowed to testify to the excellent spirit in which he accepted that Union when it had been accomplished, and to the hearty kindness, trustfulness and generosity with which he ever treated the new brethren with whom he was now associated.

The briefest sketch of Dr. Willis must refer to his labors as a philanthropist. In Scotland he wrote and spoke with much earnestness on the subject of the Poor Laws. On this question he found himself in opposition to the illustrious Chalmers, for he insisted on the necessity of general public provision being made for the poor. We do not propose to discuss the correctness of his views, but his benevolence was strongly evinced in the zealous and persistent advocacy of opinions which he deemed highly important not only in the interests of the poor but of the entire commonwealth.

In the anti-slavery movement he was truly a champion. His speeches on this question were fervid and powerful, and he stood side by side with the illustrious men who aroused the conscience of Britain upon a great and flagrant wrong ; nor did he forbear his testimony whenever the principles of freedom seemed to him to be compromised. To the end of his life he enthusiastically supported every effort to improve the condition of the emancipated, and nothing would more readily move him to indignant protest than any attempt to defend slavery from the Bible. He would permit no man to find an argument for slavery in the *δουλος* of the New Testament. Many a colored family in Toronto could speak of the