

parade of learning. His tirades, for example, against a certain well-known Oxford professor, Egyptologist, Assyriologist, and what not, were hugely invigorating. One had only to mention his name to bring forth scathing denunciations. But his was, if I may so express it, a professional and not a personal hatred. It was as the bitter invective of the politician on the hustings who that same evening will dine convivially with the object of his attack. All the years that I knew him I cannot recall one bitter word uttered in general conversation against those who compassed his withdrawal from Aberdeen. His silence, indeed, about the great trial was very noticeable. Like the sun dial his mind only numbered sunlit hours. And so it was with those that used him despitefully. The indignation of his friends against W. C. Henley was without bounds. When Henley lay a cripple in the wards of the old Edinburgh Infirmary, gaining there the material for that masterpiece "In Hospital," at Leslie Stephens' invitation Robertson Smith visited him, visited him frequently, cheered him, interested others in him, gained him employment—played, in brief, the good Samaritan to him—to be assailed causelessly and cruelly in the pages of the *Scotsman* in later years. It was a brutal return, but Robertson Smith, however acutely he felt the treatment, bore it silently—nor would he discuss it.

And, too, he had his national prejudices, of which perhaps the most comical—in him, Hebraist as he was—was his constitutional dislike of the Jew—coupled with his admiration for individual Jews, and his love for the Talmud as well as for the Old Testament. Much of the philosophy and the humour of the Talmud and of the rabbinical lore had sunk deep into his soul. One pious judgement I remember seemed to appeal to him specially, for he quoted it in my hearing more than once, and his life was a gospel of joyous, intense work. Whether it is of Hillel, or of what old rabbi, I have forgotten. It is, that no matter how evil the deeds of a man, had he written that which advanced knowledge or done that which was of service to his kind, God would not permit him