

Church and out of the Church; here, there, and everywhere, are "troublers" busy fomenting strife and contention. It's no use trying to put it down either by sneers or frown: the evil is rampant, and woe to the man who endeavors to "pour oil on the vexed waters." An instance of this has recently occurred in connection with the famous "Cardross Case." The Rev. Dr. Turner of Port of Monteith, who is the author of a very clever work "on the Secession of 1843," has published a pamphlet, setting forth what may be called the Church view of this case. The author's intention is evidently to make the Free Church see the folly of her ways and the uselessness of the great Disruption. When the publication was announced, the friends of the Church of Scotland very freely expressed their sorrow that one of her most distinguished ministers should condescend to enter the lists of a controversy, from which she had hitherto kept aloof. But the opinion of such has been very much changed since the appearance of the work itself. It is written in the spirit of generous forbearance and charity which so distinguished the author's larger production. There is no bitterness displayed, no vindictive feelings manifested, no triumphant boasting indulged. Every word and sentiment are couched in the most dignified and tolerant language—a decided contrast to the fiery and bumptious effusions of the other side. And yet it is almost a pity that Dr. Turner has taken up the question at all, for instead of allaying the strife, he has kept it from dying out. His pen, although so gentle, has pierced most terribly—the truths he records so unpretendingly and quietly, have stung to the very quick.

There is another agitation threatened, nay already begun in the ecclesiastical world here. It arises out of a recent decision in the Court of Session on a case of admitted importance. The Town Council of Elgin, it appears, have systematically refused to recognize the Presbytery of Elgin's title to examine the Grammar School of that city. To test the case, the clergy appealed to the Civil Courts, who have unanimously decided in their favor. And not only so, but the interlocutor of the judges finds that every teacher of burgh as well as parish schools may be compelled to sign the usual formula of adherence to the National Church. This judgment has created a profound sensation throughout Scotland. It turns out that all the teachers of the Elgin burgh school belong to the Free Church, and that many in other towns and cities are in a like predicament. Very wisely the Presbytery of Elgin have announced their intention not to disturb the present masters, or require them to sign the offensive declaration. Such forbearance, notwithstanding, appears to be thrown away, as both they and their patrons have appealed to the House of Lords, and are stirring up Dissenting bodies to war with the Church. They have been

already before Parliament through Mr. Dunlop, M. P. for Greenock, and have got the Lord Advocate enlisted on their side. Any one can predict the result of the appeal to the House of Lords: undoubtedly the verdict of the Scotch Courts will be confirmed. But it is difficult to tell what may be the end of the application to Parliament. The Church of Scotland have two circumstances in their favor. The present ministry are not expected to last long—probably they will be out of office before May; and the constitutional party is every day becoming stronger. Besides, Town Councils are getting tired of paying large sums of money to push such disputes to extremities, and in this question they will get no aid from without. The magistrates of Dumbarton have refused to join the coalition against the Church, and those of Rutherglen (a royal burgh) have, as if their purpose was to mock the sorrows of their Elgin brethren, voted only £10 to assist in carrying a large measure to the high places of power! An incident arose the other night in Parliament from the discussion raised by Mr. Dunlop—an incident of no great moment in itself, but curious as showing how constitutional feeling is growing in the House of Commons. The motion of the hon. member for Greenock was for "a return of how many teachers of burgh schools were and how many were not belonging to the Established Church of Scotland." Mr. Blackburn, M. P. for Sirlingshire, objected to the word Established as unnecessary, and declared his intention to divide the House on the point, if Mr. Dunlop would not erase it. The latter gentleman, being a Free Churchman, is not sure of the National Church's right to be called "The Church of Scotland," and so demurred to the request; but, finding that Mr. Blackburn was determined to take the sense of the members present, reluctantly gave way, and the return was ordered with the disputed word obliterated.

We have not heard the last of the Edinburgh Annuity Tax war. A monster petition has, within the last fortnight been presented to the Town Council of Edinburgh, praying them to take measures to have the recent act of settlement repealed. A great excitement is prevalent throughout the metropolis, and very bold language is employed. But it's no use. They may rage and storm and petition as they like. The House of Commons is too glad to get rid of the question, and will be very slow to take it up again. Honorable members would be rejoiced to see the English Church Rates agitation shelved in the same way, and there seems a prospect now of some compromise taking place in all these ecclesiastical questions. The country is sick of dissenting squabbles, and is beginning to see through the late repeated onslaughts on the Church. The evidence of this is to be seen in last week's division on Sir John Trevellyn's bill, for the abolition of Church Rates. That hon. Baronet used to score a majority