

away. Besides, all the silent people, who listen to remarks at bazaars and do not think it worth while to show their disagreement, feel it necessary to bestir themselves when the question is brought down to closer terms. And all the latent dislike to any change in the accustomed thing begins to make itself vocal.

Further, the Articles are in themselves so novel, and, if accepted, are bound to be so far-reaching in their effects that grave hesitation was justified and justifiable. I do not write with the knowledge of one who belongs to the Church of Scotland, and accordingly may mistake in interpreting its attitude; but I venture to think the opposition arises along two main lines.

All who fear any slight change in doctrinal matters have shown themselves suspicious. We have a large number of men here who still believe that the Church's doctrine is best guaranteed when it is placed under the protection of the Statute. They value the State connexion, because by it the Church's faith is guarded by the law. Liberty on the part of the Church to be guided by the Spirit within it in the reformulation of the faith by and for which it lives, seems to them to spell anarchy, or at least the possibility of disastrous changes. Such men have shown themselves sensitive to the danger of that new liberty on doctrinal questions which the Articles declare to be within the power of the Church of Scotland.

Besides these, however, another party bestirred themselves. The Articles show a wholly generous readiness on the part of the Committee to surrender everything which implies privilege, while at the same time a strong desire is shown to retain the old historic status of the Church of Scotland. It is not a new Church which is to come into existence through this claim: it is the Church of Scotland which takes here a new attitude to its sister Churches, and abandons for a great end its privileged position. One cannot but recognize that a large number of men, especially in the country Presbyteries and more especially among the elders in these Presbyteries, have waked