

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

"The Church of Scotland, as originally constituted in 1560, was distinctly, but not bigotedly, Presbyterian; was one of the original group of reformed Churches and shared all or nearly all the feature, characteristic of these in method of government, catechism, confession of faith, and prayer-book.

"The subsequent struggles of the Church (as to whether the government was to be by presbyters or bishops) had their origin and strength, not within the Church in its ministers or members, but outside the Church in the interference of Royalty in the way of dictation or intrigue; so that Episcopacy (as distinct from Romanism) never was native or national or patriotic in Scotland.

"In point of theory, Presbytery is not provincial, narrow, or poor, as some prejudiced persons suppose, but occupies a firm and logical place as a protest against Roman corruption, and as a return to the first principles of the New Testament. The group of reformed Churches of Presbyterian type is not tied down to the theory of Apostolic succession for validity, which becomes a very hard, if not impossible, question, apart from Roman or Greek orders.

"The total value of the Church of Scotland's endowments is £275,000 per annum, of which £235,700 are from friends. This property never was given by the State; it has always been separate from other property—it has always been Church property. No person pays any part of it in his religious capacity; it is not a tax in any sense, far less a religious tax, but a pecuniary transaction pure and simple, as much as any fee-duty or ground-annual.

"The Church of Scotland not only uses this revenue for its original legitimate purpose, but her own membership voluntarily contributes year by year, to the

500 in 1878, for the purpose of more efficiently performing all branches of incumbent duty as a Church.

"The membership of the Church of Scotland, moreover, is such, in point of actual numbers and of annual growth, as to put it in a place of marked preponderance in the country, for it is not merely one of three great branches of Scottish Presbytery, but is much more than equal to the other two put together, the figures being: Church of Scotland, 515,786 communicants, Free Church, 222,411; United Presbyterian, 172,170. The majority of the Church of Scotland over both together is thus 121,205. The figures are the returns made in each case by the ministers and kirk-sessions of the three Churches concerned."

HORROR has seized upon the souls of men on reading of the Tay disaster. The railway crosses that river near Dundee, Scotland, on an iron bridge two miles long and eighty feet high. On the 4th inst. while the wind blew a hurricane the bridge gave way precipitating a passenger train into the seething gulf below. Seventy-five lives were lost.

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