

the belief of the majority of Protestant Christians.

(2). The Confession of Faith is not in accord with the advanced opinions of this age.

(3). The Confession stands in the way of a union of all the churches of Christ in one visible organization.

1. Our answer to the first is : If the allegation is true the more the pity, for the reason alleged is not that Calvinism is not the doctrine of God's word. The real offense is not the confession, but the Scripture. It is significant that the decay of Calvinism advances *pari passu* with the neological denial of inspiration and miracle. He was a wise man who when asked if he could believe the Confession, replied, "Aye, ony man that can believe the sma' print, can easily believe the lairge" Any one who intelligently assents to the teaching of the Bible, as the Reformers did, will not dissent from the teachings of the Confession of Faith. The present decline from Calvinism indicates doubt regarding Scripture and a tendency to put human authority, of learned men or church, in the place which our confession puts God's authority "Thus Saith the Lord" as the above ground of intelligent faith.

2. In answer to the second reason we ask : Where shall we find what "advanced thinkers" hold in this year of grace ? By advanced opinions are we to understand the opinions of the leading men who have reached the grand results in physical science of which this age is so proud ? or the speculations of philosophers and metaphysicians ? or the theories of Neo-critics, based on the discoveries of ancient records ? or does "advanced opinion" include the results of all three ? Does it propose to give us a similar religion, based on physical science and a materialistic philosophy which accepts "evolution" as the fundamental truth and ignores miracle or revelation ? For such a faith the Presbyterian church certainly is not prepared ; we cannot substitute any such human religion for that which in our confession is deduced solely from the word of God, without any intimation of natural religion, further than that is recognized in the Bible as preparatory to revealed religion. We cannot accept a mixture of Divine revelation and human discoveries and speculations. Nor will we attempt to effect a harmony between God's word which liveth and abideth forever and the shifting opinions of scientists and philosophers.

We may learn something in this regard from the excellent statement recently prepared by the Presbyterian Church in England. There we find