

mined doctrine) we must and always shall have. But what we protest against is the imposition of any set of dogmas as a final complete and finished statement of the Christian faith. It is further contended that dogma will come—I might say, has come—to hold a less important place in the Christian church than heretofore, and that a man will be judged by the church and society to which he belongs less by the formulæ to which he assents than by the spirit and motive of his life.

The liberal theologian does not wage war against any of the great historic terms of Christian doctrine, although here too he holds that the forms in which they have been stated in the past are not adequate to express modern modes of apprehending them. Trinity, incarnation, redemption, justification, church, eternal life—these by the very fact of their passing through so many centuries of continuous development commend themselves as words that stand for realities. He believes not only that they will survive the tests of modern thought, but that they will come forth from the melting pot of science and criticism simpler and stronger than ever. Having this faith in him he can regard with some measure of equanimity the charges of disloyalty that are so energetically hurled at his head. He knows that in every age it has been so. The pioneers of new thoughts and of new movements have always been condemned because they are always misunderstood. If the prophets of one generation are stoned, the next generation erects monuments to their memory. It is a striking illustration of this fact that Aberdeen University, from which in 1881 its most distinguished scholar had been thrust out, erected a stained glass window in memory of him a few years later.

By the necessities of the case, liberal theologians have been largely on the defensive in by-gone years. It would appear that those necessities are passing away. Men are beginning to understand and to appreciate their position. They are at least beginning to be recognized as men with a distinctively Christian message for their age. Their message is