

under which humanity was suffering and wrought for that end. In politico-religious and ecclesiastical questions he was energetic and wide awake. The establishment of a public school system on a Scriptural basis; the changing of King's College constitution so as to put the national university on a non-denominational basis; the secularization of the Clergy Reserves; and the participation by the Church of Scotland, in the benefits of the Royal Grant for the support of a Protestant clergy, were matters for which he laboured hard and constantly until they were accomplished. How much he did, although his hand was scarcely seen by the public, will never be known. Many important documents were either written or inspired by him. And it was well known that his redoubtable, energetic and sagacious opponent Bishop Strachan, recognized his power, and more than once expressed himself to the effect that he feared Alexander Gale more than any politician of the radical wing. Dr. Strachan was himself an Aberdonian, and, trained thoroughly as Mr. Gale had been, he was able to appreciate the patient, farseeing, persistent, and well-founded assaults which Mr. Gale made on those unjust monopolies. The bishop was beaten by the presbyter, not so much, however, because of superiority of talents on the part of the latter, for "Greck met Greck" at every turn; but because public opinion at last was forced to decide in favour of equal justice.

Within the narrower circle of church work he was equally active. Even when in Amherstberg he sought to foster what we now call Home Mission work; when the church had gathered strength by union, he devised schemes for supplying destitute localities; when he found himself in a new church struggling to establish itself he took the responsible work of

Home Missions or his already heavily weighted shoulders, and continued to the last in the good work, being convener of the committee when he died. He took a very prominent part in organizing the Presbyterian Church of Canada, and in establishing Queen's College. A large portion of the important correspondence on these subjects was conducted by him. For years he was Synod Clerk, and the chief documents of that period were drawn up by him. His skill in such work was very rare, indeed he seemed to have a genius for constructing papers involving difficult points. His labours at this time were so severe that he was laid up for a time by serious illness which endangered his life. In all these labours he was ably assisted by such men as Messrs. Stark, McGill, Bayne, George, Mackenzie, Allen, Roger and Reid; but all of these would thankfully acknowledge his superior administrative ability.

When the disruption came in 1844 Mr. Gale did not hesitate. He was deeply attached to the Established Church, and never favoured voluntary views; nay, he was a strong opponent in the voluntary discussions; nor was his level head affected by the more intelligent enthusiasm which swept many into the Free Church at that time, yet he saw clearly that for the full development of Presbyterianism and its efficiency in these Provinces it was necessary that the church should in no way be hampered or agitated by questions properly belonging to Scotland alone. So he went out from the church he loved with the minority who insisted upon dropping all connection with the parent church. This step brought to him a repetition of his former labours in organizing and establishing a Theological School. The new church felt in every part the power of his forming hand and controlling influence. All his brethren