

great responsibility, and the large number of ordinances which they drew up testify to their remarkable diligence, and their close attention to every item of a University Constitution. Nearly every Professor from the four Universities appeared and gave evidence before the Commission. Throughout the evidence, which is quite voluminous, there is not a single word as to the renewal of Church connection. Sir Robert Christison, who had been a Professor under both regimes, said very distinctly, "I do not think that it is desirable that the affairs of a great University should fall into the hands of any religious denomination." In similar terms, Professor Leslie said, "The Scotch Universities should bear no ecclesiastical restrictions, but they should seek to disseminate the measure of literature and science which is most valued, and to do this in the most effective manner." This is the tone which pervades the whole of the evidence. Principal Tulloch, a strong Churchman, but a man of clear judgment, went so far as to say that he could see no objection to the Professor of Old Testament Criticism or of New Testament Criticism being a layman.

As further marking the separation of the Universities from the Church, the Commission of 1858 decided that the Principal should be a layman, and in Edinburgh Sir David Brewster became Principal, and was succeeded by Sir Alex. Grant, Sir Wm. Muir, and Sir Wm. Turner, who at present occupies this chair.

Now, it may be asked what has been the effect of these great changes in the constitutions of the Scotch Universities and their separation from the Church. No doubt there were some in the Assembly of the Established Church who bemoaned this separation, and like some in the Assembly of our Canadian Church, predicted the ruin of the Universities. On the contrary, the growth of the Scotch Universities has since been very remarkable, and Sir Lyon Playfair would not now say "that the Scotch Universities had lost sight of their proper object, that these educational establishments had descended below the requirements of the