

whilst we hold fast the fundamental principles of our Church, viz., National Recognition of Religion, the Presbyterian Government of the Church, and the grand old Scottish Theology of our Creeds and Confessions, we are willing to go the greatest length possible in matters non-essential. If the other Churches will not meet us we cannot help it. We have done much and we will do more to meet their wishes; but we will fight to the death before we will permit one finger to be laid upon her to her hurt or dishonor. We would as readily assent to the upturning of the graves of our mothers as permit her disestablishment and dismemberment.

What we want is true unity. We have been seeking this for years, and we shall keep at it till it is accomplished. It was before us at the Assembly just closed, and negotiations passed between the two Assemblies on the subject. All the speaking was in favor of the measure—not one word against it. Some were in doubt as to whether this were the most fitting season. The Free Church has been passing resolutions by overwhelming majorities in favor of disestablishment, and consequently some of our members thought the season unfortunate; but none opposed themselves. Dr. Story thought the answer of the Free Church might have been in different form. The Rev. Gavin Langspoke strongly in favor of immediate action. For the sake of the Highlands, where the Church is weak, he urged that in that part of the country every hour's delay would be unfortunate. What may come of it we know not. We wish to be faithful to God, to the Church, and to the country.

Our hearts were rejoiced beyond measure to have, after an interval of 43 years, Delegates from our sister Church, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. The last delegation was sent in 1843, and they chose to go to the Free Church General Assembly and not to ours. The Assembly did not relish the slight, and a "coolness" began which lasted up to the present. This year, however, it was "made all right" by the appearance of Delegates, who were received with applause, and right nobly did they speak to us the words of fraternal greeting. We have swung into line with that great Church again, and we and they feel all the better of it. We had a Delegate from your own Church, Rev. Neil Brodie, and one from the United Canadian Church on the same day. We had men from the Waldensian Valleys, and from the Protestant Church of France. We had our own Missionaries before us—men from India, China and Africa—young men with all the freshness of youth upon them. We had our

Army Chaplains with us, men who went into action with our heroic soldiers—who closed the eyes of the dead, who prayed beside the dying, who assisted the ambulance corps in carrying the wounded to the rear whilst the bullets roared over their heads and ploughed up the sand under their feet and whistled about their ears like hail. Whilst you rejoice in the bravery of Scottish soldiers, as we all do, do not forget to thank God for our heroic Chaplains, men of God who go to the field of battle, and go into the thickest of the action with the men.

The General Assembly just closed was an interesting one in many respects. There were no fewer than four Pictonians among the members, and we flatter ourselves that we were neither ashamed nor afraid of ourselves. We missed sadly several men who during the year had been removed by death. Principal Pirie is with us no more. We hear no more his broad Doric—his ready retort and his convincing argument. Principal Tulloch, too, has gone to his rest and reward. A Prince among men, great himself, yet considerate to all. No man, howsoever limited his capacity, if honesty and candour characterized his ways and words, ever failed to find in the great and good Principal considerateness and courtesy. There are some of the leaders in the Assembly who are impatient and intolerant of all but great men like themselves. Not so Dr. Tulloch. It was the same with him while a Parish Minister. I have met with people in humble station who sat under his ministry. They speak one and all with the deepest emotion of his kindness and unwavering courtesy. He could take his place like a prince among princes, and be honored with the confidence and friendship of Her Majesty the Queen, and dwell at the same time in holy remembrance in the hearts of the laboring poor. Truly "a prince and a great man is fallen this day in Israel!"

The Right Reverend John Cunningham, D. D., Minister of the Parish of Crieff, was Moderator of this Assembly. He is a man well known in the world of letters. His "History of the Church of Scotland" is by far the best book on the subject. I got my first accurate knowledge of the Church of Scotland from its pages. A better, a fairer, and a more business-like Moderator has not occupied that honorable position for many a day. And no sooner was the Assembly over than a pleasant surprise was sprung upon us. The important appointment, vacant by the death of Principal Tulloch—that of Principal of St. Mary's College and Primarius Professor in the University of St. Andrew's—was given to him. For the post he is most thoroughly qualified. The wonder of all his