

carse, bore us away to the seceders who, resisting lay patronage in ecclesiastical spheres, took a position which, in the lapse of more than a hundred and forty years, the Kirk they left has practically vindicated. But why adduce additional instances? Those selected may suffice to illustrate the statement that, for the valour and vigour which stamp our kindred, an underlying all-pervading tone of religiousness must be recognized; and nothing short of this heritage is the secret of their descendants' determination, at any cost to preserve and perpetuate the legacy of liberty. Accusations, indeed, of abject obedience by the nation to clerical control have been cast upon the Scotch. Mr. Buckle, in his volumes on Civilisation, has even dared to allege that for blind homage to the beck of ministers, the masses in Scotland are stupid as priest-ridden classes in Spain. The charge is a libel; the logic of facts refutes it. If the pulpit ever had the power to mould the populace, it has not reached the post by delusive devices or for selfish purposes. Its occupants have been defenders of the people's rights, repairers of the people's wrongs; foremost in peril; firmest in trials; the faithful pastors of the trustful flocks, and so magnifying their office as heralds of Him who is the giver and guardian of every good, they have done for the community much of what only Ambassadors of Christ could accomplish; much also for which the best trained, the most candid of the commonwealth there or here, of anywhere offer thankful acknowledgment. But whether directed by church leaders or dependent on different councillors, the evidence remains incontrovertible, that whatever of industry or integrity, whatever of dignity or solidity has been connected with individuals or institutions of our native land is deducible from intelligent, conscientious reverence for the Divine will revealed in the Bible. "I speak as to wise men; judge ye what I say."