

they did not feel that there was an absolute necessity for it." Sir Lyon Playfair, afterwards Lord Playfair, on the same occasion represented that the purpose of the Government was to nationalize these Universities, and said, "The object of the Commission is to adjust the curricula to modern needs."

Similar Commissions were from time to time appointed by the Government to consider the condition of the Scotch Universities, and these Commissions have had the same results as in the case of the English Universities. The four Universities of St. Andrews, Aberdeen, Glasgow, and Edinburgh, were closely connected with the Church of Scotland. Each "member" of a Scotch University was required to sign the "Confession of Faith," and in the case of Glasgow, to accept the "Book of Discipline." The Commission of 1836 did not break through this rule, but that of 1858-60 virtually removed this restriction except in the case of Divinity Professors proper. The Acts or Ordinances passed by this Commission, and enacted by the Parliament, separated the Universities from the Church. On the occasion of introducing the Bill, giving power to the Commission, Sir Lyon Playfair,* evidently referring to the results of the relation of the Universities to the Church, said, "The Scotch Universities had lost sight of their proper object, these educational institutions have descended below the requirements of the age."

By the Commission of 1874-76, the separation from the Church was confirmed. The Commission was composed of some of the most eminent men of the day, including Lord Justice General Inglis, Huxley, Froude, Dr. John Muir, the great Sanskrit scholar, and some ten others scarcely less distinguished. They sat for a good part of two years, and their almost daily sessions show the great interest which they took in the work assigned them. They evidently realized their

*Sir Lyon Playfair was himself an Edinburgh Professor from 1858 to 1869, and was elected as representative of the University from 1868, and was Postmaster-General in the Gladstone Ministry 1873-4. He must have perfectly known the condition of the Scotch Universities, especially Edinburgh.