

Church Council was formed. This was a genuine federation of all the Evangelical Free Churches. It was brought about by the desire for closer intercourse and common action which was keenly felt in the larger Free Church denominations. Expression to this had been given at various meetings and conferences, and under the guidance of men like Hugh Price Hughes and Charles Berry it was crystallised into action. The Association comprises Churches of every type, and no difficulty has been experienced in getting them to stand together on a common platform and to take united action in defence or furtherance of Free Church principles. One immediate effect of it has been to enable the different Churches and their leaders to know and understand one another better, and to set on foot measures for preventing unnecessary rivalry and overlapping among the Free Churches. The Council has also rendered good service in giving to Free Churchmen a suitable opportunity for the defence and exposition of their principles, and in applying them to the social and political needs of the time. Its strength in this direction was abundantly demonstrated by the campaign undertaken against the reactionary education policy of the Conservative Government of 1902. It enabled the Free Churches to discover a solidarity and a determination which stood them in good stead. Though the Education Act could