

The Union of the Churches

AND THE

Coming Presbyterian Assembly.

By Rev. P. B. Fraser, M.A.

A MEMBER OF THE UNION COMMITTEE.

WITH LETTERS AND CRITICISMS OF
"THE ARTICLES OF THE FAITH"

FROM

MR. PRINCIPAL RAINY, D.D., REV. PRINCIPAL DYKES, D.D.,
RIGHT REV. HANDLEY MOULE, D.D., LORD BISHOP OF
DURHAM, REV. THOMAS WHITELOW, D.D., REV.
PROF. C. W. HODGE, PH.D., REV. PROF. B. B.
WARFIELD, D.D., LL.D., REV. PROF. W. M.
M'PHEETERS, D.D., AND REV. E. B.
HODGE, D.D.

Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.—1 Thes. v. 21.

"Hold fast the form of sound words."—11 Tim. i, 13.

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Reply from Rev. W. M. M'Pheeters, D.D.,

Professor in the Theological Seminary of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (Southern).

Columbia, South Carolina,
April 8, 1904.

The Rev. P. B. Fraser,
Lovell's Flat, Otago, N.Z.

Dear Sir and Brother,—You ask me for a "criticism" of the changes which it is proposed to make in the "Articles of the Presbyterian Church of England," as these changes are set forth in an excerpt from the 'Otago Daily Times,' Saturday, December 12th, 1903." As the matter is one in which I cannot be supposed to have any partizan interest, I presume that I may, without impropriety, state how the proposed changes strike me as a Presbyterian and a lover of the Presbyterian Church in all its branches. Briefly, then, I may say:

1. In general, that both the omissions and the substitutions strike me as equally significant and unfortunate, not to say ominous. There is not one of them that does not touch some capital head of doctrine, and with the single exception of the addition to the Article on "Sonship in Christ," either annihilate the doctrine altogether or sadly mutilate it.

2. The proposed changes may be grouped under two heads, viz.: First, such as affect "the common salvation"; and second, such as affect the integrity of the Presbyterian system.

Under the first head, or those affecting the common faith of Evangelical Christendom, I would include the changes proposed to be made in the Articles "Of the Fall," "Of the Justification by Faith," "Of the Last Judgment." Further, the change proposed in the Article on "The Work of Christ" is open to criticism as not only unhappily evasive, but as furnishing a cover for the most fatal error.

The changes proposed to be made in the Article "Of Election and Regeneration" and "Of Christian Perseverance" fall too manifestly under the second head to require any comment.

It seems to me that only those prepared to break not only with the Presbyterian system, but with the common faith of Christendom, and with the clear teachings of the Word of God, can with clear understanding of what they involve vote for so radical changes as those proposed.

Hoping that God may be pleased to avert so sad a calamity from your beloved Church,

I am, yours in the Gospel,

W. M. M'PHEETERS.

A Letter from Rev. W. M. M'Pheeters, D.D.

Professor in Theological Seminary,
Columbia, South Carolina.

Columbia, June 23rd, 1904.

Rev. P. B. Fraser,

Lovells Flat, Otago, New Zealand.

Dear Sir and Brother,—

The paper containing your speech on the Revision came into my hands some time ago. It reached me at a time when I was exceedingly busy, so that I did not get the opportunity for some time to read it. I have read it, however, at last, and wish to express to you my appreciation of the ability and earnestness with which you have championed the cause of what I believe to be essential truth. I trust that God has crowned with success your efforts to hold the Church true to the teachings of His Word.

Assuring you of my deep and abiding interest in the struggle that you are making,

I am, yours, in the Gospel

W. M. M'PHEETERS.