

himself regarded it, than a radical change of character. Previous to that period he seems to have looked upon the duties of his profession as a mere matter of official drudgery ; and not a small part of his time was devoted to science, particularly to the mathematics, to which his taste more especially inclined him. But having been requested to furnish an article for the "Edinburgh Encyclopædia" on the evidences of Divine revelation, in the course of the investigation to which he was led in the prosecution of this effort he was brought into communion with Christianity in all its living and transforming power. He not only became fully satisfied of its truth, of which before he had had only some indefinite and inoperative impression, but he discovered clearly its high practical relations ; he surrendered himself to its teachings with the spirit of a little child ; he reposed in its gracious provisions with the confidence of a penitent sinner ; and from that time to his dying hour he gloried in nothing save in the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ. He stood forth before the world strangely unlike what he had ever been before. There was a sacred fervour, an unearthly majesty, in all his utterings and all his writings. Scotland, Britain, the world, soon came to look at him with wonder, as one of the brightest luminaries of his time,—as destined to exert a controlling influence upon the age, if not to work an epoch in the world's history. It was quickly found that there was a far higher effect produced by his ministrations than mere admiration,—that the sword of the Spirit, wielded with such unwonted energy, was doing its legitimate work ; for worldliness could not bear his rebuke ; scepticism could not stand erect in his presence ; while a pure and living Christianity was constantly re-producing itself in the hearts of some one or other of his enchained hearers."

Dr Sprague's estimate of the intellectual character of Chalmers seems eminently just, and, formed at the distance of more than three thousand miles from the more immediate scene of Chalmers' personal labours,—for distance in space has greatly the effect in such matters of distance in time,—it may be regarded as foreshadowing the judgment of posterity.

"The intellectual character of Dr Chalmers was distinguished chiefly by its wonderful combination of the imaginative, the profound, and the practical. If there be on earth a mind constituted with greater power of imagination than his, we know not where to look for it. And because he was so pre-eminent in respect to this quality, I am inclined to think that some have underrated his more strictly intellectual powers,—his ability to comprehend the more distant bearings of things, or to grapple with the subtilities of abstract philosophy ; and they have reached their