

**THE PROBLEM OF THE CHURCHLESS
AND POOR IN OUR LARGE TOWNS:
WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE
HOME MISSION WORK OF THE
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

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The problem of the churchless and poor in our large towns: with special reference to the home mission work of the Church of Scotland by Robert Milne

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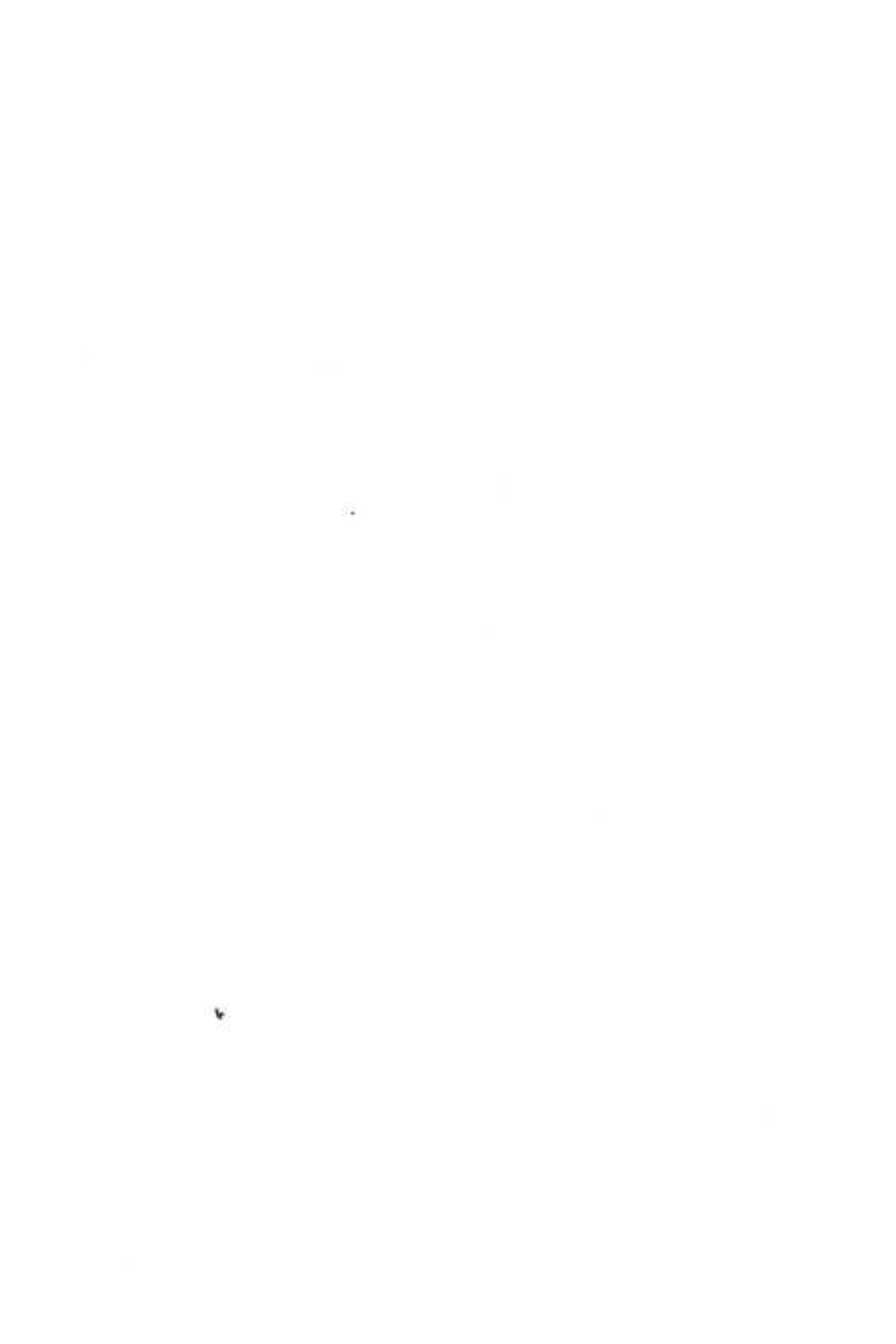
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BY
REV. ROBERT MILNE, M.A.
TOWIE

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PREFACE.

TWO reasons in particular have influenced the writer in devoting special attention to the problem of the Churchless and poor. The first, that the condition of the lapsed population is one which has now, and not a moment too soon, begun to attract public attention as a blot upon our Christian civilisation; the second, that, so far as he is aware, this subject has not yet been fully dealt with in its many-sided aspects by any previous writer. Some of those who are most competent to deal with it are prevented from doing so by want of leisure. Others seem to regard the solution of this problem as impracticable, and shrink from grappling with it in despair of final success. But, those who consider the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ an infallible remedy for healing the spiritual maladies of our race, and the Churches as the best organisations for its propagation, have no right to despair of this, any more than of other great spiritual

problems with which it has to deal. Fully conscious of the difficulties that beset the present inquiry, the writer would not have entered on so great a task, had he not been more hopeful of a solution than some, and had already had occasion to treat of the subject in some of its more important aspects. From his isolated position, he has had to encounter difficulties which would not have met others who had readier access to the sources of information. However much he may have failed in the subject he has taken in hand, he is, at any rate, conscious of an honest attempt to draw the attention of the public to this pressing question, and to interest the members of the Churches in it; and he is not without hope that others may follow more successfully in his track. His object has been to view the question of the Churchless primarily in relation to the Church of Scotland, but he has never left out of consideration how large a factor the other Churches, as also the State, are in its full solution. A slight repetition of facts or observations may be noticed, but this was partly unavoidable, in consequence of the same subject being treated under different aspects in successive chapters, and partly intentional, in order to enforce more strongly some important truth.

In the present work attention has been exclusively

directed to the question of the Churchless in towns. One reason for this is that it presents quite different aspects in its relation to rural districts, and requires a different treatment from the other. Another is, that the writer desired more leisure to consider the question in its bearing on the country districts, and more information than he at present possesses ; but should the present publication answer its purpose, he hopes, God sparing him, to give his attention to this aspect of the question also. Meanwhile, he takes this opportunity of tendering his sincere thanks to those who have supplied him with information, or have in any other way been of service.

MANSE OF TOWIE,
25th March 1884.

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