

**FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND;
ASSEMBLY PAPERS, PART II:
CASE OF REV. PROFESSOR
SMITH; CASE OF REV. MARCUS
DODS, D.D., 1878**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649359325

Free Church of Scotland; Assembly papers, part II: case of Rev. Professor Smith; case of Rev. Marcus Dods, D.D., 1878 by Various

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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VARIOUS

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✓ Free Church of Scotland.



ASSEMBLY PAPERS,

PART II.

CASE OF REV. PROFESSOR SMITH.

CASE OF REV. MARCUS DODS, D.D.

1878.

Printed for the General Assembly

BY

JOHN GREIG & SON, 57 FREDERICK STREET,
EDINBURGH.

C A S E

OF

REV. PROFESSOR SMITH.

CASE OF REV. PROFESSOR SMITH.

FORM OF LIBEL.

THE FREE PRESBYTERY OF ABERDEEN

AGAINST

MR WILLIAM ROBERTSON SMITH.

MR WILLIAM ROBERTSON SMITH, Professor of A
Oriental Languages and Exegesis of the Old Testament at
Aberdeen, you are indicted and accused, at the instance of
the Free Presbytery of Aberdeen:—

That whereas the publishing and promulgating of opinions
which contradict or are opposed to the doctrine of the imme-
diate inspiration, infallible truth, and divine authority of B
the Holy Scriptures, or any part or parts thereof, as set
forth in the Scriptures themselves, and in the Confession of
Faith, and to the doctrines of prophecy and angels therein
set forth; as also the publishing and promulgating of
opinions which are in themselves of a dangerous and
unsettling tendency in their bearing on the doctrine of the C
immediate inspiration, infallible truth, and divine authority
of the Holy Scriptures, or any part or parts thereof, as set
forth in the Scriptures themselves and in the Confession of
Faith, and in their bearing on the doctrines of prophecy
and angels therein set forth; as also the publishing and
promulgating of writings concerning the books of Holy D
Scripture, which writings, by their neutrality of attitude in

A relation to the said doctrines, and by their rashness of statement in regard to the critical construction of the Scriptures, tend to disparage the Divine authority and inspired character of these books, as set forth in the Scriptures themselves and in the Confession of Faith, are severally offences, especially in a Professor of Divinity, which call for B such censure or other judicial sentence as may be found adequate ; and more particularly :—

Primo :—Albeit the opinion that the Aaronic priesthood, and at least a great part of the laws and ordinances of the Levitical system, were not divinely instituted in the time of Moses, and that those large parts of Exodus, Leviticus, and C Numbers, which represent them as having been then instituted by God, were inserted in the inspired records long after the death of Moses :—

Secundo :—Albeit the opinion that the book of inspired Scripture called Deuteronomy, which is professedly an D historical record, does not possess that character, but was made to assume it by a writer of a much later age, who therein, in the name of God, presented in dramatic form, instructions and laws as proceeding from the mouth of Moses, though these never were, and never could have been uttered by him :—

E *Tertio* :—Albeit opinions which lower the character of the inspired writings to the level of uninspired, by ignoring their divine authorship, and by representing the sacred writers as taking freedoms and committing errors like other authors ; as giving explanations that were unnecessary and incorrect ; as putting fictitious speeches into the mouths of F their historical characters ; as giving inferences of their own for facts ; as describing arrangements as made use of in their complete form at a certain time which were not completed till long afterwards ; and as writing under the influence of party spirit and for party purposes :—

Quarto :—Albeit the presentation of opinions which discredit the authenticity and canonical standing of books of Scripture by imputing to them a fictitious character ; by

attributing to them what is disparaging; and by stating **A** discrediting opinions of others, without any indication of dissent therefrom :—

Quinto :—Albeit the opinion that the portion of Scripture known as Canticles, although included among the books which in the Confession of Faith are declared to have been immediately inspired by God, is devoid of any spiritual signi- **B** ficance, and only presents a high example of virtue in a betrothed maiden, without any recognition of the Divine law, and that its deletion from the Canon was providentially prevented by the prejudice in favour of an allegorical interpretation, to the effect that "from verse to verse the song sets forth the history of a spiritual, and not merely of an **C** earthly love" :—

Sexto :—Albeit opinions which contradict or ignore the testimony given in the Old Testament, and also that of our Lord and his apostles in the New Testament, to the author- ship of Old Testament Scriptures, upon which authorship **D** most momentous teaching was sometimes based :—

Septimo :—Albeit opinions which disparage prophecy by representing its predictions as arising merely from so-called spiritual insight, based on the certainty of God's righteous purpose, and which exclude prediction in the sense of direct supernatural revelation of events long posterior to the **E** prophet's own age :—

Octavo :—Albeit the opinion that belief in the superhuman reality of the angelic beings of the Bible is matter of assumption rather than of direct teaching; and that angels are endowed with special goodness and insight analogous to human qualities appears as a popular assumption, not as a **F** doctrine of revelation :—

Albeit that all these opinions, or one or more of them, do contradict or are opposed to the doctrine of the immediate inspiration, infallible truth, and divine authority of the Holy Scriptures, as set forth in the Scriptures themselves and in the Confession of Faith as aforesaid, and to the doctrines of