



Patronage in the Church of Scotland : Considered (Classic Reprint)

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Excerpt from Patronage in the Church of Scotland: Considered By the constitution of the Church of Scotland, the presbyteries of the Church have the sole power to license and ordain ministers. In the exercise of this power, they are subject to no control, and require no concurrence from any separate body. They may confer ordination either with or without a parish or congregation to which the individual ordained is to minister, or with or without a stipend provided for him. In point of fact, they do not confer ordination except where one or other of these is provided but they have perfect power to do so without them, and to ordain to the ministerium vagum, of their own sole authority. Here, however, their independent power ceases. By the true principle of the Church, while the ministerial character is conferred by the presbytery alone, the ministry to a particular people, the allocation of the minister to that people, and the subjection of the people to him, can only be effected by the presbytery, through means of an expressed will by the people, and Call from them to him to take the pastoral charge over them. It is true that after a call and in the face of it, even though unanimous, the presbytery, in whom rests the sole governing power, may refuse to sanction the settlement. But without the call, they cannot settle. These two rights - the right of the presbytery to ordain and govern, and the right of the people to call - both rest upon Scripture, as indeed all ecclesiastical rights of a spiritual nature must do. That the presbyterial right of ordination is divine, is nowhere disputed, except by those who dispute ordination itself. But while the right of Call is no less of the same character, there is no proposition which, in the present day, is more opposed and derided. It is a thing, however, to be maintained and contended for because it bears intimately on a most important department of Christian privilege, and materially influences the prosperity and usefulness of the Church. For plainly, there is no particular connected with the Christian system, save one, so important as, the manner in which the ministers who are to propagate its principles shall be named. About the Publisher Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books. Find more at www.forgottenbooks.com This book is a reproduction of an important historical work. Forgotten Books uses state-of-the-art technology to digitally reconstruct the work, preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy. In rare cases, an imperfection in the original, such as a blemish or missing page, may be replicated in our edition. We do, however, repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works.

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