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Miscellaneous Articles.

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HISTORY.

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It was thought by many, if not by all, that the doctrinal controversy was finally settled with the decision of Synod in 1841, and the document which the Committee afterwards published, from which we have made copious extracts; for, although Mr. James Morison was soon afterwards joined by his father, the Rev. Robert Morison of Bathgate, and two other ministers, yet the proceedings of the Supreme Court had been conducted and terminated with much unanimity.

But, in the course of a year or two, it was found that considerable diversity of sentiment still prevailed on the subject of the Atonement. This arose chiefly from giving way to unnecessary speculations on the subject, and pushing enquiry beyond the limits of the written word. In consequence, the Synod had yet another ordeal to pass through, and one equally painful, before the storm of discussion, which again began to agitate the Church, was changed into a calm. It is necessary for us to give a short account of the rise, progress and termination of this last struggle.

It had been alleged in some quarters, although without any satisfactory evidence, that Drs. Brown and Balmer, two of the Theological Professors, had, in their lectures, been instrumental in presenting views of Divine Truth, which, being misapprehended by some of the students, afterwards ministers of the Church, had occasioned, as in the cases of Messrs. Morison, Walker and others, the use of "novel speculations, and startling modes of expression," on human ability, the extent of the atonement, and some other doctrines, by which the Church had been agitated. In consequence, these Professors felt themselves called on to exonerate themselves by an explicit declaration of their sentiments. It was found, however, that from whatever