

# THE PRESBYTERIAN.

APRIL, 1866.



PRESSURE of original communications prevents our giving to our readers any editorial matter for this number; for the want of which, they must console themselves with the reflection, that they have of late been very liberally supplied with this kind of intellectual

food. The present number contains the concluding article of the series, by Iona, in answer to the question, "Why are we Protestants?" and we hope that our talented contributor will continue to write for us. We introduce, with this issue, a new correspondent, Mr. Muir, of Lindsay. The gentleman who writes to us under the signature of an Elder, and who is evidently, what is called an anti-union man, surprises us with the remark, that we are considered by many as opposed to the insertion of articles likely to provoke discussion. We are entirely of the opposite way of thinking. We invite discussion, not only upon the Union question, but upon every question that is of interest to the Church. We desire, fairly, to give both sides of all such subjects. That man has a poor case in hand, who fears discussion. Mr. Campbell concludes his articles in this number; and in doing so, is, of course, very severe upon ourselves. When a Reverend Father of the Church wields the rod over us, who are supposed to be offenders, and only laymen, we endeavour, as in duty bound, to submit with the best grace we can. In our own opinion, we have acted very fairly by Mr. Campbell. He has had all the space he asked for—and that is not little. We make no comments whatever upon his present article. We give him—what we hope, he will be grateful for—the ladies' privilege, of having the last word—and we shall be glad to hear from him again. Our friends may have observed, that, in our last number, we

were compelled to give eight extra pages, being an addition of one-fourth of our whole space, in order to overtake the quantity of matter on hand. In this number, we are obliged to do the same, or leave out portions of articles, which we do not like to do. All this adds to our expenditure, which is already large, and we ask our readers to send in their subscriptions, as we are still in debt to our printer.



NDENIABLY this is the age of progress. Commenting upon Dean Ramsay's statistics of preaching, the *Scotsman* gravely proposes division of labour, so that ministers, like shoemakers, might each take his own particular *job* at sermons, one writing the introduction, another the heads, a third clinching the applications and so forth, while standing in the position of the finisher probably, would be the preacher of the composite article. We give the remarks of the *Scotsman* below, in which will be found some food for thought to those who fancy a minister's duties light, and that he is over-paid, while receiving in this country possibly a poor \$500 a year.

According to statistics by Dean Ramsay, in his lecture on "Preaching and Preachers," at the Philosophical Institution the other evening, there are nearly four millions of sermons annually produced and preached in Great Britain. Every Sunday in the world the inhabitants of this island are addressed by thirty-seven thousand five hundred clergymen, who give them seventy-five thousand pieces of their mind. This, however, by no means exhausts the amount of good advice tendered to the population. Besides the regular force of clergy in orders, there has also to be taken into account a vast militia of missionaries, male and female, with a large volunteer force of street-