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“THAT THE SOUL BE WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE, IT IS NOT GOOD.”—Prov, xix.

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THE LATE REV. JOHN KEIR, D. D., S. T. P.

*Continued.*

V. FROM HIS APPOINTMENT TO NOVA SCOTIA TILL HIS ORDINATION.

Having thus been duly accepted as a Missionary, he immediately prepared to set out for his destination. Three weeks previous to his departure, he was married to Mary, only daughter of James and Amelia Burnet, persons distinguished for their early and deep piety, and respectable members of Dr. Thomson's congregation in Glasgow, in connexion with the Relief Synod. This union of Secession and Relief was as happy in a domestic point of view, as has the larger union of the same name been in an Ecclesiastical. For the long period of fifty years they have travelled the journey of life together, unitedly bearing its burdens and sharing its joys—“as heirs together of the grace of life.” “Lovely and pleasant were they in their lives,” and in their deaths they cannot be long divided. It may be here mentioned that during his student life, he enjoyed considerable friendly intercourse with ministers and students of the Relief Synod, and acquired a high esteem for that body. He rejoiced therefore greatly at the steps taken for union between it and the Secession, and when the union did take place, his remark was, that it should have taken place long before. We may also mention that by his marriage he became in right of his wife a Burgess of the city of Glasgow, though had he found it necessary to trade within the bounds of the city, his principles as an Antiburgher would have prevented him taking the oath then required of such.\*

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\* It may be necessary to explain, that the Burgesses of certain cities in Britain, have alone the right to do business within certain limits. “The freedom of the city” sometimes presented to men of eminence is the conveyance to them of this privilege. Ridiculous as the idea may seem of giving to such warriors as Lord Clyde or such statesmen as Lord John Russel, the right of dealing in tea or tobacco in the salt market of Glasgow, yet it is considered a compliment, which is received with all due respect. An oath which was required of Burgesses in certain cities of Scotland, produced the division of the Secession into Burghers and Antiburghers, the latter denying the lawfulness of the oath.