

*Bruce.*—You seem to want my opinion as a ground of reflection rather than for instruction.

*Angus.*—From your suggestion one would infer that your sentiments on the point are the reverse of mine; or so, at least, in a considerable degree.

*Bruce.*—I shall not deny the justice of your inference.

*Angus.*—Hem! And do you mean then to assert that the famous Guardian—the choice vehicle of our venerable community and reverend Clergy in this quarter—is to be suspected of mis-statement, or exaggeration, on the score of the improvement and revival of the Church?

*Bruce.*—It is not unfrequently difficult to prove a negative; and mere assertion is no proof either for, or against your assumed position.

*Angus.*—I guess it is not mere assumption to maintain as truth the faithful intimation we receive, by the Guardian, of the flourishing and reforming condition of our eminent Church; especially when the same is corroborated by the intelligence and correspondence of many other unexceptionable means of information.

*Bruce.*—I can see little on the subject beyond the mere affirmation of self-interested, misinformed, or designing people; who are either foolishly imposed upon, or endeavour to impose on the credulity of others.

*Angus.*—Fie, man! I would have you prove something on the ground of your dangerous surmising.

*Bruce.*—I as heartily wish you could, by any fair facts, prove to the contrary.

*Angus.*—Are not the statements of good christians, and popular Ministers of the Gospel, of what they see and hear, or may fall under their own immediate cognizance, fully sufficient to answer for your fair-facts demonstration?

*Bruce.*—Granted, were these men indeed such as to answer your real description of them, and not the reverse; but nominal christians may make mere sounding Ministers very popular.

*Angus.*—And do you dare maintain that the most prominent Ministers, in the famous Church of Scotland, are popular only in the estimation of shallow or hollow christians?

*Bruce.*—I must, till you show me better proof to the contrary; for I presume upon the same claim with yourself on hypothetic arguments.

*Angus.*—The light and heat of the meridian sun are not hypotheses to any but the blind.

*Bruce.*—Let me hear something of the evangelical improvement of your dignified Church, that may correspond with your grand simile, unless you judge me blind to your evidence: but the blind may feel the heat of the sun!

*Angus.*—My ev-ev-evidence! Are not all the evidence and information in the country, on the subject, as level to your eyes as to mine, if they are not purblind through unavoidable ignorance; or rather by something worse—tenacious and wilful prejudice? Have you not read or heard any thing of the reform of non-intrusion, of the law of Church extension—the erection and endowment of new chapels—the wonderful