

ly, and that the fact was committed in Grantoun House, the week before Fastens even, when he came out to Grantoun, and brought her out, and stayed there from Tuesday that week, till Saturday, altho' his family then lived in Edinburgh, and nobody was at Grantoun but James Anderson, Sir William's boy; and Robert Hunter, the town Treasurer of Edinburgh, came and took away the child. The minister waited on Sir William Patterson, who acknowledged his sin, but hoped the Session would deal discreetly with him in consideration of his age and character (he was then about 70, and held an office under Government for many years.) They were however peremptory in insisting on satisfaction, probably on account of his having been a violent persecutor of the Presbyterians while he was Clerk of the Privy Council: he delayed to come before them for some time, going to Bath and other places, but on his return to this part of the country he was again sent for by the Session, whereupon he formally appeared before them 14th Nov. 1701, and professed his sorrow for committing the sin of fornication, and his willingness to submit to the Session, for removing that scandal. He was then rebuked and exhorted to repent, and appointed to appear in the public congregation, to remove that scandal; but the records are silent as to the latter point's being complied with.

One cannot but smile at the following instance of the Parson's minute attention to the private concerns of his parishioners. March 4th 1698, the Minister reported to the Session, that he had spoken to my Lord Tarbat's groom and Mary Milligan, who did lie in one room, but in two separate beds, and that they had promised to forbear the same.

Of the superstition and credulity of the common people, take the following examples. Sept. 15th 1695, John Knight in Lauriston gave in a complaint against James Baptie and Margaret Thomson his wife, that the said Margaret had upon Sunday come in a rage, upon his wife keeping the kine upon their own grass, swearing and cursing, and using imprecations upon her and the kine, and one of

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