

member some incidents, of a local character, connected therewith, which to our then somewhat volatile and untutored mind, bordered close on the ludicrous. Example, like water, runs downhill; and as more rapid and repeating tunes, as well as singing without reading the line, began to obtain in the more aristocratic churches in the metropolis and larger cities of the land, it was no long time ere the younger members of village and landward churches felt anxious to have the same practices adopted in their respective Sabbath assemblies. But serious difficulties lay in the way. As was to be expected, these innovations were sternly opposed by the aged, who were devoutly wedded to the olden ways of worship. And at that time there were many in the congregation of C—— whose grey hairs and godliness gave them deserved influence. The precentor did not dare to sing any new-fangled tunes, or to dispense with the reading of the line. But a junior and forward Elder, gifted with musical talent and a large amount of confidence, took the desk on one occasion, and started, I suppose, some new tune, and proceeded to sing it without reading the line, to the consternation, and devout indignation doubtless, of not a few in the assembly. On reaching the close of the first verse, the minister, Mr. W——, rose hurriedly, and in a very excited manner, touched the head of the daring innovator, the usual mode of indicating from the pulpit that the psalmody should cease. Instead of remaining silent, as desired, the erring Elder, wishing to mend matters by instantly returning to use and wont, began to read out the next line. This was more than the patience of the worthy minister could bear, who, quick as thought, reached out his arm over the shoulder of the presumptuous and persistent singer, and rather roughly, by rapid and repeated movements or strokes of the hand, attempted to close the psalm-book, a proceeding that gave occasion to some of the rather light-minded and waggish to say that "*the Minister cuffed the Elder's bugs.*" The scene was exciting but short, terminating prematurely and abruptly the singing of the closing or after-sermon psalm, leaving the excellent but somewhat irritable minister in no desirable mood of mind for offering up the parting prayer. The whole is yet fresh in my memory. It would be a good while, no doubt—but how long I cannot tell—ere any further attempt was made to interfere with the good old way of singing, by omitting to read the line, or by introducing outlandish five-lined tunes. However, the wish for these changes not only remained but waxed,—for music, vocal and instrumental, was cultivated assiduously, and with no mean measure of success, by numbers of the young residing in the town and connected with the congregation. By and by another and a more successful effort was made to bring the singing in the Meeting-House up to the fashion of the day. Who the officiating minister was on that rather memorable occasion, I do not now remember. Probably advantage was taken of the presence of a stranger minister. However, one day the precentor sang on without reading the line, and in all likelihood gave the last line of every stanza a second singing. This, in the estimation of some, was outrageous and utterly intolerable, demanding on their