

man stands up in the congregation, and said, 'Moderawtur, Aw'm clear for keepin' the lad tae the lowest, and my reason is just this, that the Church never had ministers since she was a Church, like them she had when they went about in sheeps' skins and goats' skins, and lived in holes an' caves o' the earth.' Well, that is all very well; but I would be glad to know what the Edinburgh people would think of Dr. Candlish and me if we were seen walking in Prince's street, my worthy friend in a goat's skin, and your humble servant in the clothing of a sheep? I meet that old, narrow-minded, worthy man, by the high authority of Matthew Henry, and I am disposed to leave the whole question in his hands. He said, and I believe the experience of the world will prove it, that a scandalous maintenance makes a scandalous ministry. Poverty and piety are not identical things. I have high ideas of the office of the ministry. With Paul, I would so magnify my office that I would like to see the finest genius and the noblest talent in the country devoted to that noblest office. Of course, I desiderate piety—that is the first thing; but I am not one of those who think that God generally works by the weakest instrument, though he may do so to show his power. For that cause God called forth the wisdom and statesmanship of Moses, the poetry of David, the imagination of Isaiah, the burning fervour of Ezekiel, the pathos of Jeremiah, the logic and eloquence of the Apostle Paul—for that cause God sent down his own angels from heaven; and more than that, and above that, for that cause God sent down his own blessed Son. I hold the pulpit to be the highest position which any man can occupy on earth; and I desire, piety being granted, to see the first genius and the noblest talent of our country consecrated to the service of my blessed Master. I do not speak for myself and existing brethren. We shall very soon be mouldering in the dust. But I am exceedingly anxious for the fate of our Free Church, that the vexations and annoyances of debt and difficulty be taken out of the way of the rising ministry, and God grant such liberality to you and others that our youth may see no obstruction, in the poverty of the ministry, in coming to lay their noblest talents at the feet of Jesus."

#### BEQUESTS FOR RELIGIOUS AND BENEVOLENT OBJECTS.

The late John Ferguson Esq., Cairnbrook, who was born at Irvine, Ayrshire, Scotland, 28th March 1787, and died there 8th Jan. last, besides distributing large sums among his connexions, and for public objects, during his lifetime, and leaving, at his death, legacies to 120 relatives and friends, varying from £500 to £50,000, has made the following bequests to Charitable, Educational, and Religious objects. viz:—

To be distributed by his Trustees amongst the Poor of Irvine, time and mode at discretion of Trustees, .....	£ 1,000
To the Poor in Halfway of Irvine, .....	1,000
For the Instruction of the Youth of Irvine, .....	1,000
To each of the six Churches in Irvine, £50, .....	300
Also, in connection with the Town of Irvine, his Trustees to set apart the sum of .....	5,000
The Interest of which to be for the benefit of deserving Females above forty years of age in reduced circumstances, who have never got parish assistance.	
Also, a like sum of .....	5,000
The Interest of which to be paid to deserving Males above forty years of age in reduced circumstances, who have never got parish assistance.	
For Charitable, Educational, and Benevolent Societies and Institutions in Scotland, .....	50,000
For Religious Societies and Institutions in Scotland, .....	20,000
For Ragged or Industrial Schools in Scotland, .....	10,000
Or, in the option of Mr. Ferguson's Trustees, the annual income of these sums to be applied for these purposes.	

And the reversion of his estate, which will be very large, he has directed to be set apart and invested on real or personal securities as a permanent fund, to be called "The Ferguson Bequest Fund," the interest or produce thereof to be paid and applied towards the maintenance and promotion of religious ordinances and