

Committees. They are all ready but dare not say the word. The theoretical questions of the basis receive vitality by questions of the day, referring to the Sabbath, marriage, education and church establishments. Upon all such questions, the rival parties for and against union find perpetual occasion to disburden themselves in the course of each year. So that the discussions upon union are neither confined to committees nor General Assemblies, nor theoretical coteries, but are everywhere and constant, and inflamed with the passions of the day. Each year the two bodies are ready, the contract is signed, and all that is wanting is the word to begin the marriage ceremonies: but that word is as carefully withheld as if it were to be an execution—which, in some measure, it would certainly become. They might become one body, but could not be one soul, judging from their violent opposition. The opposition, too, is partly political, as the opponents of union are generally conservative in politics and religion, and it has turned out that the union measure was meant to strengthen the Liberal interest, and enable it to out-balance and disestablish the Church of Scotland, whose interests have been sensibly growing in wealth, energy and respect among the people. The opponents of union are among the most earnest adherents and leaders of the Free Church, among whom may be mentioned Drs. Bonar, Begg, Forbes and McGillivray, and Wm. Kidston, Esq. Dr. Begg claims to have the majority of the people with him, having made extensive tours among them, and, knowing how tenacious the people are of ancient feelings, the probability is in favor of this assertion. The failure of their measures has brought out Drs. Rainy, Guthrie, and Cairns in their true colors, and the cry now is for disestablishment. Baulked of their purpose, they must retaliate upon some one. The Established Church has had nothing to do with the dispute from first to last; but her quiet attitude and peaceful condition are very offensive. It reminds us of the fable of the wolf and the lamb at the stream of water; or Dr. Russell's story of the dragman, the

donkey boy and dog in the streets of Cairo—the point of which was, that each revenged his injuries upon a third, who was not in the fight at all, instead of pitching into his real opponent. It may be very offensive that the Established Church exists, but it is surely very hard that she may not find a place under the sky, and wood and water, like all whom a kind Providence nourishes upon the earth. And if she does offend in coming between the wind and the nobility of such heroic persons as Drs. Cairns, Guthrie, and Rainy, it must be remembered that such men, or their forefathers, once belonged to her, and that she is not bound to change though they have changed, nor bound to cease to be when they wave their magic wand—and that the men who oppose union are the true representatives of Free Church principles, and may not choose to travel wherever these self-constituted leaders may please to go, or deviate with their deviations.

The Established Church has nothing to fear from any agitation got up in such a spirit. The public will not receive it with any favour. If she were disestablished, it would not hurt her, but render her a more formidable rival. But the public of Scotland, as a mass, will not lose their national church—her influence is growing fast, and we have not the least doubt that she will out-live all such doctors by a century at least.

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## Articles Contributed.

### Astronomy.

#### THE EXTERIOR PLANETS.

Come and see the works of God—Ps. 66. 5.

#### NO. V.

There is a remarkable fact to which reference might have been more appropriately made in our last paper, but the statement of which may not be regarded as an unsuitable introduction to our notice of the exterior planets. We refer to the undeviating precision with which the earth performs its revolutions on its