

We call attention to our friend's grammar here again. We claim space for our last, extracted from page 323 :—

"His remote situation precluded him from any minute acquaintance with the literature of the times, or plunging deeply into the lore of the past, yet his diligence was such in availing himself of the means at his disposal, that he accumulated a large amount of general information."

We have not dealt unfairly with Mr. Patterson in exhibiting these blemishes. Did we space permit, we could indicate six times as many. The fact is, that in a literary point of view, the book is one huge blemish from beginning to end, and would disgrace a school-boy. We fearlessly assert that the intelligent reader cannot lay his finger upon a single paragraph where he will not detect some outrage upon taste and grammar, some egregious solecism, or some feeble or ambiguous expression. In his hands the story staggers along as we have seen a boy upon stilts for the first time, limping, tottering, languid and irregular in movement, and every moment threatening a break-down. We have been more astonished at this, because we were led to expect better things. We were told by those who professed to know something about Mr. Patterson, that, though a very indifferent preacher, he was nevertheless "a smart man," and we presumed, from the literary duties entrusted to him by the Church to which he belongs, that his smartness lay in a literary direction. This book has undeceived us. We solemnly affirm that we would have considerable hesitation in recommending Mr. Patterson to a junior clerkship in Professor Holloway's Puffing Department: worse still, we would even have scruples in entrusting him with the composition of a Dry Goods Advertisement, or an Auctioneer's Bill of Sale. We have been told that he was partially educated at one of the splendid and efficient seminaries of the old country; if so, where are the fruits? Many of us college-men are, after all our collaging, most incorrigible blockheads, and will remain so. We hope Mr. Patterson's vanity will not lead him to inflict another book upon us. With him the ambition of authorship must manifest a pure and veritable *cacoethes scribendi*. He has ruined his reputation as a literary man for ever; he has mangled his grandfather's history, and brought disgrace on the literature of a Province which can boast of one or two tolerable works, and not a few really "very smart men."

(To be continued.)

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FROM OUR SCOTCH CORRESPONDENT.

Every man has some "thorn in the flesh," some sore point that he does not like the stranger to touch. In every house there is some subject that they do not like other peo-

ple to talk about, just as it is said that it is not polite to talk of a rope to a family which has had one of its members hanged. So every church seems to have its difficulty, its hated stumbling block. The U. P.'s here have their organ contention and other small matters. The Free Church is more than annoyed with its College squabbling and its Cardross case. The Establishment too, in the Edinburgh Annuity Tax, has had a fruitful source of vexation and trouble for some time. But now there seems good prospect that this running sore is to be healed. Two or three bills were formerly brought into Parliament to put an end to the whole question, by despoiling the church of its property, and handing it over to the Town Council and citizens, and so disestablishing the church in Edinburgh, but these never became law. This year a bill is brought in by the Lord Advocate, which has been virtually accepted by the Presbytery of Edinburgh, and which will in all probability be carried, and thus the question will be settled for all time coming. The main feature in the present Bill is that during the next 15 years, a fund be allowed to accumulate from taxes, seat rents, Leith harbor dues, &c., which it is calculated will be a principal large enough at the end of that period to afford a good endowment in perpetuity for the city churches. As a compromise, the bill is a very fair one, and introduced as it is by a Free Church Lord Advocate, we are glad to see that it recognises the Establishment principle. I trust that it will be carried, and that this vexed question which has caused much ill-feeling on all sides, will be now quietly disposed of.

Generally speaking, the Church seems at present to be sailing well and in pretty smooth water. The Scoonie case of disputed settlement is hung up till the meeting of the Assembly in May, when it will probably attract a great deal of interest. Dr. Robert Lee and others have been adducing it already in the Edinburgh Presbytery as a flagrant instance of the inefficiency of Lord Aberdeen's Act. They strongly urge that the Church should appeal to the Legislature for something like the old Veto act, which in itself they had never objected to, but only to the illegal and arbitrary manner in which the church had passed it, without once consulting the State with which the Church had solemnly, and before God allied itself. Their motion for direct application to the Legislature was lost in the Presbytery by a small majority, on the plea that the time is not opportune nor the present Parliament likely to be favorable. The question, however, is not to be allowed to rest. Dr. Lee has since been in Glasgow, engaged in a conference with the elders and others who moved in the matter last year, and it is expected that something tangible will result from their united action. In the meantime, the Church is engaged with other more important, if less ostentatious, schemes.