

the confessed *Thief* continued under the authority of the Court of Session, and *still continues*, to exercise ministerial functions, and dispense the most sacred ordinances of religion.

It is unnecessary to multiply such instances. We may only allude, in addition, to the case of Urquhart, in which a Presbytery was interdicted from trying a Minister, notorious through the whole country for the most gross immorality; and the fourth case of Lethendy, in which a Presbytery was prohibited from proceeding with a libel against a Licentiate, for drunkenness, obscenity, and profane swearing.

IV. Case of Stewarton. In this important case, the Court of Session, by a majority of the Judges, suspended and interdicted the establishment of an additional pastoral charge, in a Parish too extensive for the superintendence of a single Minister and Kirk Session—prohibited the reception of the Minister of such a charge into the Presbytery, or the institution of a Kirk Session—and forbade any alteration in the state of the Parish as regards pastoral superintendence and spiritual discipline. The practical effect of this decision, if submitted to by the Church, would have been to extinguish about 200 pastoral charges, of eminent utility to the country, to annihilate as many Kirk Sessions in active operation, and to throw back the whole population of overgrown parishes (extending in one case to 110,000 souls) on the superintendence of a single Minister and Kirk Session. This decision was one of those last deadly blows, which rendered the disruption of the Church inevitable.

V. Case of Arbroath. The most holy and spiritual ordinances of religion were no longer secure from the unhallowed touch of the Secular Arm. The Civil Courts, startling as it may appear, assumed the right of