

me, but he annoyed many of the congregation by the false start he so frequently made. The note would be too high at first, then too low, and it was often not till the third attempt that the requisite pitch was reached. The townspeople of the congregation took counsel together, and as a result a pitch pipe actually made its appearance in the Kirk. This audacious instrument preceded the tuning fork, afterwards so commonly used in the churches. It was a long, narrow, wooden box, in shape resembling a razor strop. By pulling out some internal arrangement to regulated lengths you could sound all the notes of the gamut. The precentor was greatly pleased with the affair, and it promised to be a great success. But lo, and behold ! the first Sunday it was used the Highlanders rose up in wrath ; many of them walked out of the church and a stormy meeting was held a few days after. It was a "device of Satan," a "Popish innovation," the "thin end of the wedge." "Was there any mention of a pitch pipe in the Confession of Faith?" Would John Knox have tolerated such an instrument?" Down came their fists in passionate denunciation. The townspeople had to give in, and the result was that my father picked up the pitch pipe and walked off with it. It lay on the top shelf of a closet in our house, and many a time I climbed up and amused myself with it, sounding each note plaintively, and wondering what in the world it was intended for. Nowadays, the descendants of those sturdy old upholders of the Presbyterian form of worship meet, probably in a building embellished by stained glass windows, and listen, without compunction, to the music of an organ, and the singing of a trained choir. But would they, I wonder, sit as contentedly through a sermon over an hour long ; or walk willingly ten or twelve miles to "The Kirk," as their devout forefathers did ?

J. N.

