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Miscellaneous Articles.

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HISTORY.

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On the 9th of May, 1848, the Synod took up a subject of great importance. It was the duty of reviving in the church the office of Deacon, which had been, with few exceptions, superseded in the various constituent portions of which the Denomination was now composed. This subject was introduced by two Overtures, one from the Presbytery of Falkirk, and another from the Rev. Henry Renton. These overtures expressed the opinion that the office of Deacon was Scriptural, and that it seemed unwarrantable for a church like the United Presbyterian, acknowledging the word of God, as the supreme rule of faith and practice, and aiming at the nearest conformity to the Apostolic model, to permit this office to go into comparative disuse. The supporters of the overtures argued that the maintenance of every order of Divinely appointed office-bearers was the most likely means of securing the prosperity of the church, and whilst they acknowledged that the secular affairs of the church had been in general managed with ability and zeal, yet they deplored the admixture of secular and spiritual functions among many of the elders, which had injured the usefulness of Sessions.

The Synod remitted this matter to a Committee, who were to report at a future meeting. The Committee reported at the meeting of Synod in 1849, but the consideration of the subject was delayed till 1850, when it was agreed that the subject of the Deaconship, be recommended, with an instruction to the Committee to report more definitely and fully on the scriptural authority and nature of the office, the work to be entrusted to it, and the relation in which the Deacons ought to