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### RELIGIOUS COMMUNICATIONS ETC.

FOR THE CHRISTIAN EXAMINER.

LIFE AND REMAINS OF THE LATE REV.  
WILLIAM HAMILTON, D. D., MINISTER  
OF STRATHBLANE. 2 vols. 12mo.  
Glasgow; Ogle & Son, 1836.

*From the Edinburgh Presbyterian Review.*

If we repeat the hackneyed saying that the lives of men of letters are generally uneventful, it is only because we wish to add, that, of all literary labourers, the country clergyman is the one, in whom this remark is most emphatically verified. The man who makes philosophy or poetry, jurisprudence or general literature, his sole or supreme pursuit, may—in perfect consistency with his grand object—mingle much with the busiest and the gayest; and his life has thus a chance (if, after the manner of men, we may say so) of contain-

ing somewhat of that strange—stirring—undefinable thing, which the world calls incident. There is at least a presumption, that he may be thrown into some of those scenes, or concerned in some of those occurrences, which general consent has invested with especial attractions. And the measure of public activity, which marked the lives of Milton and Franklin and Sir William Jones, shews that the presumption is not unfounded. The enquirer into nature may make a discovery in science, or an invention in art, that shall stamp immortality upon his name; and the record of his research may stimulate and enchain, as the successive steps of his progress are observed, and his new thought is seen to be gradually advancing from its first imperfect rudiments to its full maturity. The life of Newton, otherwise most barren of events, draws