

minister from preaching or administering the ordinances of religion within the parish. Sheltering himself under this interdict, Mr. Middleton proceeded to exercise ministerial functions in defiance of the authority of the Church. The General Assembly in due time rescinded the settlement, and declared it null and void. The Court of Session immediately suspended and interdicted the sentence, thus assuming to itself the power to establish the pastoral tie, and to set a refractory Licentiate of the Church over the cure of souls.

II. Case of Stranraer. In this instance, a Presbytery found it necessary to take cognisance of the criminal conduct of a Minister within their bounds. The Court of Session, on the application of the delinquent, interdicted the Presbytery from proceeding with the trial. They disregarded the interdict, and finding the Minister in question, after a full trial, guilty of fraud and swindling, deposed him from the office of the holy ministry, and ordered his church to be declared vacant. The *convicted Swindler*, relying on the Civil Power for support, persisted in retaining his charge, *and there he remains to this very day*. The Presbytery on the other hand, had their stipends arrested, and suits instituted against them for penalties in the Courts of Law. Six Presbyteries were in this position at the same time!

III. Case of Cambusnethan. The Minister of this Parish was libelled before the Lanark Presbytery for *theft*. The facts were so notorious that little or no defence was attempted, and when pronounced guilty, the culprit publicly acquiesced in the judgment. He applied, however, strange as it may appear, to the Court of Session, and when the Presbytery proceeded to pass sentence of deposition, an interdict appeared to prohibit the proceeding. This was of course disregarded, but