

or 'Wee Sunday' as we used to call it. This day was supposed to be devoted, if not to literal fasting, at least to humiliation and prayer, and the pulpit was usually occupied by one of the City ministers. Saturday was the so-called day of preparation, when, after sermon, 'tokens' were distributed to intending communicants. Monday forenoon was observed as 'Thanksgiving Day' invariably concluded by the Monday dinner at the manse given to the elders and such of the assisting ministers as could attend. Sabbath, of course, the great day of the feast. Simultaneous communion had not yet come into vogue. Dr. Chalmers was among the first to introduce it in his church, St. Johns, Glasgow, about 1822, and for so doing was dragged before the tribunals of the Church for judgment. The idea that communicants should be seated face to face, one-half of them with their backs to the officiating minister had been the immemorial custom, and all his eloquence failed to convince the brotherhood that the usage was utterly childish; and the controversy which had awakened a hornet's nest about him was one of which he was "ashamed to appear as a combatant even on the right side of it." In many of the churches of that time the centre aisle was transformed into one long table reaching from the front of the pulpit to the church door, at which the communicants sat facing each other while the minister occupied a chair at the head of the table. It can easily be imagined that this had a significant effect, and scenic. But in Govan the arrangement was different, by an ingenious device, the transverse pews were converted into veritable tables at which as in the other case the communicants were seated face to face, the tables being covered with white linen. In this way about 100 persons were accommodated at a time. As there were about 500 communicants, it followed that the people took their places in relays, implying the delivery of five or six 'table addresses' by as many different ministers in turn, who severally dismissed the contingent with the words "Go in peace." In the act of their retiring a portion of the 103rd Psalm was sung, the Precentor reading each line before singing it. As soon as the table was refilled the singing ceased and the address for the new company began. I should have said that the services of the day began with what was called