

thereof. To this sentence they refused to submit, declaring it null and void. In November following, the Commission dissolved the pastoral relation between them and their congregations, declaring them no longer ministers of the Church of Scotland. The "four brethren" then handed in a protest, in which, after describing the "continued course of defection" of "the prevailing party," they declared themselves bound in conscience to make a SECESSION from them. This step they followed up on the 5th December, 1733, by forming themselves into a Presbytery, called the Associate Presbytery.

They continued for some time to occupy the same pulpits, and their preaching excited greater attention than before. Throughout the length and breadth of Scotland, the proceedings of which we have given a summary were regarded with deep interest. By the most pious portion of the community these men were looked upon as the friends of evangelical truth and the representatives of popular rights, and from the treatment they received were regarded with the admiration and sympathy due to sufferers in a righteous cause. In the parishes of the seceding ministers the interest showed itself in rather tumultuous forms, when the attempt was made to intimate the sentence of the Commission in their respective churches. But far beyond their parishes the interest was widening and deepening. Either from zeal for religion or from sympathy, multitudes were to be found leaving their respective parishes, and travelling great distances to attend the ministration of the seceding ministers, and within five years after the secession, the Presbytery had in one twelvemonth no less than 70 applications for preaching.

We have referred to these events, not only because some acquaintance with them is necessary to understand the ecclesiastical position and portions of the history of the subject of our memoir, but especially because they were the events which under God determined the character of his father, and in this way made *him* what he was. We have seen the father leaving his native parish for the Lowlands, ignorant of the doctrines of