

we do not know, "The Constitution and Discipline of the Presbyterian Church, with a directory for the celebration of ordinances and the performance of ministerial duties." This book is altogether more comprehensive in its design than "Hill's," and much more minute in its directions. It treats of the Church and its Scriptural Constitution—its Head—government—powers and privileges; of the Session, the Presbytery, the General Assembly, and of Church censures. It further contains a *revised* Directory for the public worship of God, somewhat altered—whether amended or not is another question—from that in our Confession of Faith. In many of its departments this book is very minute, and in a less settled Church than that of Ireland, or one younger and less formed in its manners, it might be found irksome, inconvenient or inapplicable in many of its parts. It has, however, been highly valued by all competent ecclesiastical lawyers, and has given an orderliness to the character and procedure of that Church, worthy of all commendation. A new edition is now required, and the whole contents are, we understand, under review by a Committee of the ablest men in the Church, from whose labors we anticipate the best results.

The next work on the subject which we would notice, is that published under the authority of the United Presbyterian Church, entitled "Rules and Forms of Procedure in the Church Courts," dated 1848. This book partakes more of the character of a popular Manual than any of the others that we have mentioned. The introduction is a defence of the Presbyterian polity. The other chapters pertain to the practice of Church Courts—to the rights of members and the management of congregational affairs—to Ordinations, Elections, Church Discipline, Theological Education, and the Missionary and Benevolent Schemes of the Church. In the appendix there are various useful forms for congregational and other purposes. This book has been received with a high degree of favour, and is worthy of much commendation. The Church was ripe for constructing and adopting it. The practice of congregations and of the judicatories in that body had long been fixed, and was for the most part uniform throughout the country. This work is just an embodiment of what was before their acknowledged use and wont,—of principles and practice hallowed by traditions, and found suitable after the test of long experience. It may be called a pre-raphaelite picture of the United Presbyterian Church.

We have next to note the latest literature of Church law, prepared and published for the use of the Free Church of Scotland, under the title of "Digest of Rules and Procedure in the Inferior Courts," with an appendix containing forms and documents. This, like "Hill's Practice," has been compiled by an accomplished minister of the Church, the Rev. R. Forbes, without the authority or sanction of the Assembly. It, therefore, rests on its own merits for acceptance, and will be quoted as a convenient, but not an authoritative guide and counsellor in points of ecclesiastical practice. It has already won high praise from the most eminent men in the Church; and while it has not escaped criticism and some censure at the hands of the erudite in such matters, it is yet generally acknowledged to be a most admirable Manual so far as it goes, and promises, when completed, to occupy the place in the Free Church which "Hill" holds in the establishment. This book begins with the "Deacons' Court," one of the most important ministries of the Free Church. It treats of its members, officials, meetings, jurisdiction, business, and miscellaneous matters. After the same form it deals with the Session, the Presbytery, and the Provincial Assembly, or Synod. The General Assembly is for the present all but unnoticed, but its treatment is promised at a future time. The appendix is, perhaps, the most valuable part of the book. It contains a large number of most useful and necessary forms for the drawing up of official documents and the conducting of ministerial business. We regard this work as a model for future compilers.