

were some rough robes thrown over that body.

Mr. J. Campbell Smith next addressed the Court for the presentee and against the appeals. He said that Mr. Oliphant began his speech by disclaiming all intention to impute hypocrisy to Mr. Blackwood, and he ended by imputing heresy; for the conclusion of his speech, as well as many other parts of it, had no meaning at all unless they were imputations of heresy. He had read over the sermon several times, and he thought he knew something of English grammar, and there was not one mistake in English grammar in the sermons, so far as he had observed. But although there had been mistakes in English grammar in these sermons, such mistakes had been observed in the productions of the most classic authors. They would find mistakes of grammar in the writings of Swift, Scott, and Byron, and in the highest and most finished compositions that had ever been written by man. Any one who had looked into a treatise of grammar knew that very well. Cobbett, a very acute grammarian, showed a very great many examples of errors in grammar, and he had displayed his radicalism by showing these errors in grammar out of king's speeches—compositions which ought to be at least as strictly prepared as sermons composed for a country congregation. There was no doubt a thought or two in the presentee's sermons that were to be found in the *Homilist*; but he would ask what sermon did not contain a thought or two which were to be found in other sermons. The charge of plagiarism proceeded upon an entire ignorance of literature, and of the obligations which authors were under to each other. The very greatest authors had been the greatest plagiarists. Shakspeare did not invent the story of any of his plays, but he took them from previous writers, and worked them out and elevated them into his own idea. What poet was more original, or at the same time more indebted to those who went before him than Milton? There was not a simile in Homer or Virgil that Milton had not appropriated—indeed, there was scarcely a fine idea in any writer in antiquity that Milton had not appropriated—so much was this the case that he was known in literature as the “celestial thief.” With regard to the objectors themselves, it was better that their pretensions should receive no countenance whatever from reasonable men. They entered into this opposition from pure motives, he had no doubt; but their position had degenerated very much into persecution; and it was but right that those who would not learn Christian charity as a duty should be taught humility by defeat. (Applause from the audience.)

Mr. Rose of Markinch, next addressed the Court in support of the judgment of the Presbytery.

Mr. Oliphant having replied, parties were

removed, and the Synod proceeded to give judgment.

Dr. Anderson of Newburgh, trusted, that as the case was again before them with a still stronger body of numbers in favor of the presentee, the Synod would unanimously agree to the motion which he begged now to make—“That the judgments of the Presbytery be affirmed, the objections repelled, and the Presbytery enjoined to proceed with the settlement of Mr. Blackwood with all convenient speed, according to the rules of the Church.” (Applause from the audience.)

Mr. Taylor of Carnbee, moved—“That the appeal be sustained, the judgment of the Presbytery reversed, and the objections held proven and sustained.”

Mr. Greig, elder, seconded Dr. Anderson's motion.

Mr. Webster, of East Anstruther, seconded Mr. Taylor's motion.

A vote was then taken, when Dr. Anderson's motion was carried by 20 to 6, the following being the state of the vote:—

*For Dr. Anderson's Motion:*—Dr. John Anderson, Mr. W. Reid, Mr. James M'Nair, Mr. Broun, Mr. Murray, Mr. Morrison, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. John Steele, Mr. W. Ferguson, Mr. Pennell, Mr. M'Whannel, Professor W. Milligan, Mr. Alexander Hill, Dr. Alexander M'Laren, Mr. R. Buchanan, ministers; Mr. Adamson, Mr. James Asher, Mr. John Luke, Mr. Andrew Creig, Mr. Buist, elders—20.

*For Mr. Taylor's Motion:*—Mr. A. Taylor, Mr. H. Scott, Mr. D. Foggo, Mr. John Webster, ministers; Mr. James Peebles, Mr. W. Morgan, elders—6.

Mr. Oliphant protested, and appealed to the General Assembly against the decision of the Synod.

#### SPRING SACRAMENTAL FAST.

Business was almost entirely suspended throughout the city yesterday, in consequence of the Spring Sacramental Fast. The churches were moderately attended during forenoon and afternoon, and several religious meetings were held in the evening. The weather was favourable for excursions, and the number of people who left town by steamer and railway was greater than it has been for some years past. 27 steamers left the Broomielaw yesterday, having on board an average number of 500 persons, making, altogether, 13,500. Last year there were 22 steamers, with an average of 400—total, 8800; and in 1859 there were 23 steamers, with an average of 11,500. The passengers by the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, including the Helensburgh branch, numbered 5500, compared with 5000 the previous year, and 5700 in 1859; 3200 went by the Glasgow and South-Western, compared with 2600 last year, and 3110 in 1859. The passengers by the Greenock section numbered 4900, in comparison with 5600 last year, and 7393 in 1859. Those by