

simony of their hearers, they are suffered to sink below the rank which they ought to hold in society, whatever be their personal merit, they can no longer command that respect from a vain, thoughtless, and undiscerning world, which is necessary to secure attention to their instructions—"Many more can see that you are poor, than that you are wise," says Doctor Johnston, and few will reverence the understanding that is of so little use to its owner. Doctor Chalmers' speech made a deep impression upon the minds of all who heard it, but as the members of the Assembly had not been prepared for its discussion by any previous intimation, he declined pressing the motion, by which it was concluded.

Soon after this, Doctor Chalmers published an able and laborious work, entitled, "An Enquiry into the extent and stability of national resources," which was of great benefit in disseminating loyal and sound principles, and encouraging the people to persevere in supporting the Government, and in bearing without murmuring, the burdens imposed upon them, from the necessities of the times. In this performance, some of his theoretic principles are, no doubt, questionable; but his sincerity, his clearness and richness of illustration, and above all, his practical inferences and admonitions, deserve the greatest commendation. This publication added much to his reputation; it proved him a person of solid and intense thinking, often brilliant in his conceptions, and always liberal and independent. It came out likewise, at a very seasonable time, when apprehensions were entertained by respectable men, that we were unable to maintain much longer the contest in which we were unhappily engaged.

In October, 1812, he preached an excellent sermon before the Dundee Missionary Society, which indicated a mind so powerful and original, as to induce other Societies to solicit his assistance at their public meetings. The cause of Missions had been so frequently pleaded by men of the first talents, and appeared to be so beaten, that little new or interesting could be expected on the subject; but Doctor Chalmers gave another proof, that to persons of uncommon attainments, no subject is trite or exhausted. The text of this Missionary sermon is, Romans 10th c. 17th v. "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." The author considers the word of God as read, and the word of God as preached, the two grand instruments employed for