

THE ORIGIN AND PROGRESS OF THE E. U. OF SCOTLAND.

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Many were the conjectures formed regarding the young and devoted preacher; and, there was no lack of odd and mysterious sayings, that were retailed in certain rural districts, relative to his person and doctrines. On one occasion Mr. M. was intimated to preach in the open air, at the village of D.—in the vicinity of Kilmarnock.—A female belonging to that village, had heard that the preacher's cranium had by some accident been laid open, and that he was now necessitated to wear a silver clasp to keep the head together. This female was present on the above occasion, no doubt to satisfy herself from personal observation as to the real condition of the preacher's head. The day was very hot, and, when the preacher lifted his hat, to commence the services, the mark of it was distinctly left on his forehead. The poor woman could not forbear giving expression to her surprise, as she mistook the mark on the brow of the preacher for the silver clasp; "*its over tru*," said the woman, "*there's the silver clasp*",—and perhaps this would be sufficient to explain to the satisfaction of the woman herself, the reason of the reputed errors with which the preacher was charged.

We remember, one day, during a short walk into the country, calling at a cottage by the roadside, when we entered into conversation with the mistress of the house about the young preacher of Clerk's Lane, and the theological stir he had created in the country. The woman said that she had gone one day, out of curiosity, to hear Mr. M. as she had heard so much about him, and, among other things, that the preacher was not altogether sound as to his brain. Well, as Mr. M. made his way up the pulpit stairs with his head inclining very much to the one side, the good woman was confirmed in her suspicion that the young man was not altogether himself; but, the preacher had not proceeded far with his opening prayer, when the woman saw that it was she that was wrong, and not the minister, and the impression of that Sabbath morning resulted in the woman's conversion to God.

But we must pass on to the other ministers, who experienced the same ecclesiastical treatment, because of their strong sympathy with Mr. Morison and his views. The Rev. Robert Morison of Bathgate had entered his protest against the decision of the Synod in