

and venerable. Some choose to assail them as remnants of Popery. They may just as well be called remnants of Judaism. But on either hypothesis, we must have a stronger argument for laying them aside. If American Ministers cannot be persuaded to put them on, they have yet one specimen of the olden time, surviving in Dr. Miller of Princetown, whose example might serve to reclaim them to a propriety of clerical attire. His age, his dignified and venerable appearance, his calm and deliberate manner, brought forcibly to my recollection the late Dr. Rankin of Glasgow.

During our first visit to the Assembly the Court was employed in the preliminary arrangement of business. Every thing was conducted with the greatest order. There was nothing in the proceedings of this day that required speeches. What was said was brief and in the conversational style. The Moderator seemed perfectly acquainted with form, and his decisions were prompt and at once acquiesced in. In putting any question to the house, the ayes and noes appeared as if audibly uttered by every member. Only on one occasion did we hear an opinion delivered at variance with the principles and practices of government followed in our own Church. The occasion was something like the following: a reference for advice had been transmitted from some Presbytery on the question—"Whether Ministers who had not been inducted into (or as they call it installed over) a congregation, but merely preached to it, and administered ordinances, (to which they give the name of "stated supplies") could be constitutionally admitted a member of Presbytery?" The Committee of Overtures recommended to the Assembly a deliverance, to the effect, that as Presbyteries were composed of the Pastors of congregations within

their bounds and Elders only, Ministers giving stated supplies, not being Pastors, should not be admitted to seats in Presbyteries. This was manifestly asserting an essential constitutional principle, and at the same time aiming a blow at an intolerable evil that has crept into the American Church—the practice of hiring Ministers, or "stated supplies"—a practice which is utterly subversive of Presbyterian Government. On this recommendation contained in the report of the Committee of Overtures being read, some members, who either were not attending, or did not know what the proper duties of this Committee were, took up the notion, that the Committee wanted to settle matters in a summary way, without the deliberation of the Assembly, and not a few useless words were dropped on the occasion. We were less surprised at this, however, than to hear the venerable Dr. Miller, whose counsel is much regarded, rise up and declare against the recommendation of the Committee, asserting, that always within his memory, Ministers affording stated supplies had been admitted to seats in Church Courts—that great as the evil was, to act upon the principle of excluding them now, would disturb and unsettle a great number of congregations, and he concluded by moving that the matter should be referred to a special Committee to draw up a deliverance thereon for the Assembly. These principles declared by such a man, so contrary to Presbyterian order, and the practice of our Church, astonished us. Their prevalence is the cause of much of that disorder which disturbs the Presbyterian Church of the United States—a disorder seen and deplored by all—while the recommendation of the Committee asserted a constitutional principle, and went to the correction of the evil. The Moderator, as we after-