

much more into public notice ; and as there did seem to be something excentric in a Parochial Clergyman giving lectures on a difficult branch of science, the proceedings of the Presbytery and Synod created a good deal of curiosity. As the constitution of the Church of Scotland is not generally known in this country, some account of it may not appear useless or improper in this place. The constitution there consists of Church Sessions, Presbyteries, Provincial Synods, and General Assemblies. The Session is composed of the Minister and Elders of a Parish, and manages its ecclesiastical concerns, and takes cognizance of the poor, and of such money or funds as may be applicable to their wants. A Presbytery consists of Ministers of different Parishes, within certain bounds, together with a certain number of Elders.—An appeal lies to this Court from the different Sessions: it has ecclesiastical jurisdiction over all the Parishes within its bounds: it licences Preachers, ordains Ministers, and manages other matters that come before it. A Synod comprehends the Ministers of a Province, and is composed of several Presbyteries; it corresponds with other Synods, discusses appeals from Presbyteries within its limits, gives permission to Presbyteries to take on trial candidates for the holy Ministry, and transacts other ecclesiastical business. The Supreme Ecclesiastical Court is the General Assembly of the whole Church, and is composed of a definitive number of Ministers and Elders, deputed from every Presbytery, and of deputies from the Universities and Royal Burghs, and is honoured with the presence of the King's high Commissioner seated on a Throne.

Soon after this difficulty, Mr. Chalmers was sent by his Presbytery to the General Assembly, and there gave the first public proof of those commanding talents, which have since raised him so high above most of his cotemporaries. His object was to bring before that body some material objections to the bill which provided for the augmentation of the stipends of the Clergy of the Church of Scotland.

"I have heard of the obloquy which a Clergyman incurs" says this intrepid orator, "by his eager pursuit after the objects of temporal ambition, and I know just as much of that obloquy as thoroughly to despise it." The sentiments contained in this able speech, respecting the great importance of the independance of the Clergy to the interests of religion, will command the cordial approbation of every liberal mind. And if, either by the neglect of the Legislature or by the par-