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Miscellaneous Articles.

SCOTTISH PRESBYTERIAN PREACHING.

(Concluded from p. 42.)

Perhaps, there is too much attention paid to the formal method by the preachers of the United Presbyterian communion generally. Certainly the *knacky* divisions which some affect are not to be commended. There is a danger of the pleasing balance and apparent symmetry of parts we sometimes see in them, being more in words than in thoughts; nor is that the greatest evil; the manufacturers of such divisions are tempted to twist, or compress, or draw out, certainly in some way to mutilate the truth, as in the Dutch style of gardening is done with the trees, in order to obtain their valued form of arrangement. We all know how Macaulay has made truth bend to his antitheses. The proper mode of division is to distribute a whole into its own constituent parts, whatever these, in each particular case may be; and as there is an endless variety of such "wholes" in Scripture, so consequently must our divisions be endlessly varied too. We divide different parts of the same flower and anatomize different parts of the same human frame, in different ways. Our United Presbyterian ministers might, we think, learn something on this subject from the free methods of such preachers as Archer Butler, Trench, and other eminent Episcopalians. It would not do, however, to give up formal method altogether, and adopt the style of the mere religious essay; for, if according to the latter mode the finer strokes and due proportions of truth are better preserved, according to the former, perspicuity is more likely to be attained, and, consequently, what is said will be more probably remembered. The really good preacher is he who combines the excellence of both methods.

Such a preacher is the Rev. John Cairns of Berwick. He does not, indeed, like the two great popular orators of whom we have been speaking, shine peculiarly in the pulpit. You do not see crowds following him wherever he goes; although a crowd around him is certainly an honour, for you may be sure that it is made up, for the most part, of the intellectual and inquiring. His qualities are not such as to strike the multitude with admiration; to his form, look, voice, and the like, he owes but little, although, indeed, his appearance is at once manly and simple. Nor would his forehead, judging from a distant view of it, please a Spurzheim, or his face a Lavater; the lower regions of the countenance seem better developed than the upper. We have been struck by a resemblance between him and the portrait of Andrew Fuller. Then, Mr. Cairns' mode of speaking, although simple, natural, and even not