

Scotchman. Sir Walter Scott, is to be celebrated on the 9th of August next. As a poet, as a novelist, as a man, as a writer, all whose writings are on the side of purity and healthful sentiment, Sir Walter deserves well of mankind.

The Marquis of Lorne and the Princess Louise were married with much splendour in St. George's Chapel, Windsor, on the 21st ult. The great house of MacCallum More is again allied with the royal family.

Anti-patronage meetings are being held all over Scotland, and the General Assembly's Committee is framing a measure. It does not appear as if the people take so much interest in the matter as we would expect. Notwithstanding much protestation to the contrary, it appears to be a clerical move. "Popular election" is not so popular as it was. The public have discovered many of its delusion.

A. P.

Items of Intelligence.

Church Extension in Scotland.

The Church of Scotland is showing a wonderful vigour in extending the parochial system that has been such a blessing to the country. Its Endowment Scheme Committee reported to last General Assembly that the point originally aimed at had been reached, and that *one hundred and fifty* new parishes had been erected at a cost of £563,000 stg. The money has not been spent, but is there to bless all succeeding generations. But it seems that the Committee does not consider its work ended. It did not pause for a day; and now it has determined to make a bold and strenuous effort to endow *another hundred chapels* within the next ten years. This grand scheme has been already received by the people with favour; and, among other princely subscriptions, one of £10,000 has been intimated to the Convener. The Church is now showing her belief as she never did before in the principle contended for by Chalmers and Robertson, that the purely voluntary system is utterly incompetent to deal with the

case of a lapsed population, and that the most hopeful attempt to evangelise them is by a ministry planted on the endowed system, and of a strictly territorial or parochial character. Verily our bush is burning brightly! To the Great Head of the Church be all the praise!

Church Service Society.

The report of this Society for 1870 has come to hand, showing a membership of 192 ministers, though five years ago it numbered only 46. The object of the Society is the study of the ancient and modern liturgies of the Christian Church with a view to the improvement of our own Church service. Having this in view, it has published a book of common order, containing beautiful models of prayers for public worship, a good Table of Lessons, and also model services for the dispensation of the Sacraments, for the admission of persons for the first time to the Lord's Table, for Marriage, Ordination, and the Burial of the dead. It has been the means of effecting, in many parishes, several improvements in the public worship, such as standing to sing, the general saying of "Amen" at the end of each prayer, and spending a minute or two in silent devotion after the benediction is pronounced. Why cannot all our congregations adopt the two last mentioned reforms? That they are reforms, that they are Scriptural, that they are in accordance with the dictates of common sense, good taste, and devotional feeling, every one must admit. George Herbert says concerning attendance at the Sanctuary, even when the preaching is of the poorest. "He that gets patience, and the blessing the preacher concludes with, hath not lost his pains." But how many of our people do not get even the blessing? They are looking round for their caps, or brushing their hats, or putting on their top-coats, or opening the pew-doors and preparing for a rush, or—but it's really a shame to speak of such burlesques during the most sacred moment of our common worship. What is the cure? Let every one take his seat again after the blessing is pronounced, even if he has not the grace to pray, and then he can rise and go out in a quiet and orderly manner.