

Thus our standards distinctly teach that the church is bound to admit all true Christians "to fellowship in sacred ordinances." Yet there have always been, and there still are, some among us who deny this. They press so far the idea of the church as a witnessing body, that they will not commune with any Christians whose creed they cannot adopt; neither will they receive to the communion of the Presbyterian church any who do not adopt its doctrinal standards. This rejecting from our communion those whom Christ receives into fellowship with himself, is revolting to the great body of our ministers and members. Yet who would think of making departure from our standards on this point, the ground either of reproach or of judicial process. Again, our book recognizes the right of a woman to divorce her husband, as well as that of a man to divorce his wife. Some of our most distinguished men, however, hold that the Scriptures give the right of divorce solely to the husband. Our book also teaches that wilful desertion is a legitimate ground of divorce, *a vinculo matrimonii*, but many of our brethren in the ministry do not believe this. Other Presbyterians again, knowing that our Lord says, "Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marieth another, committeth adultery," cannot bring themselves to believe that there can be any such divorce as renders a second marriage lawful. Our standards deny the lawfulness of the marriage of a man with the sister of his deceased wife, yet it is notorious that a large portion, probably a large majority, of our ministers openly reject that doctrine. Now what is to be thought of a rule, which, if applied, would cast out of the ministry all these classes—a rule which would have strangled the church in its infancy, and which would kill it now in a week—a rule which would have deposed from the ministry the venerable Dr. Asbel Green, and scores of men among our fathers of like standing? If the rule that no man should be allowed to exercise the ministry in our church, who did not adopt every proposition contained in the Confession of Faith, should be carried out, we verily believe that we should be left almost alone. We are not sure that we personally know a dozen ministers besides ourselves who could stand the test."

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 OBITUARY.
 

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REV. JAMES RITCHIE DALRYMPLE, WARNAMBOOL, AUSTRALIA.

"It is our melancholy duty to record the death of the Rev. James Ritchie Dalrymple, Minister of the United Presbyterian Church, first at Thornliebank, Scotland—next, at Hamilton, Canada—and for the last five years, to the United Presbyterian Church in this district. It is no exaggeration to say, that no man was more beloved, no man so universally regretted. He was a Christian Minister in every sense of the word, and although, during the last twelve months, failing health prevented him from taking an active part in matters outside of his own church, yet he will be long remembered here as the friend of benevolence and science—one who was ever willing as a citizen, to bear his share. The primary cause of Mr. Dalrymple's death was a sun-stroke, which he received, two years ago, while proceeding to Towerhill, where he formerly preached. For the last twelve months his health gradually gave way, and about six months ago he went to Melbourne for a change, from whence he shortly returned, apparently greatly improved in health. The week before last, however, he again took ill, and within six days of his departure from this port to Melbourne, he had gone to his long home. It will, however, be a source of satisfaction to his numerous and sorrowing friends, to know that every care and skill which mortal aid could procure was bestowed on him—the Rev. Mr. Hamilton, of Collingwood, and other friends, evincing the greatest interest. The funeral was a public one, and took place at Melbourne yesterday, moving from Mr. Ramsay's Church, Collins Street, to the New Cemetery. Mr. Ritchie Dalrymple was a native of Ayr, and died on 1st July, in the 48th year of his age." [He was a Nephew of the Rev. John Ritchie, D.D., Edinburgh.]—*Warnambool Examiner*.