

THE ORIGIN AND PROGRESS OF THE EVANGELICAL UNION OF SCOTLAND.*

It is with societies as it is with individuals, people are desirous to know something of the man who has made a noise in the world as a statesman, a politician, as a theologian. So people may sometimes be desirous to know something of the antecedents of Institutions that are candidates for the attention and favour of the community. The Evangelical Union, which we have the honour to represent, is a religious denomination which has created no small stir in Scotland, and accomplished a great amount of good; and as that denomination has a small Branch in Canada, and as the brethren who constitute that branch are desirous that those Gospel views, which they hold to be the truth of God, should have free course among the people, it is presumed that there may be a desire on the part of some to be informed as to the circumstances of the birth and life of our young and rising denomination. That we may meet such a desire, and also counteract misrepresentation, we are here this evening to make a few plain statements bearing upon the origin and progress of the "Evangelical Union."

The E. U. of Scotland originated in the expulsion of the Rev. James Morison and other ministerial brethren from the Secession Church (now the United Presbyterian), for holding and teaching the doctrine of universal atonement and other kindred doctrines, which were understood to be opposed to the teaching of the Westminster Confession of Faith. But as the prominent actor of this drama was the Rev. James Morison, then of Kilmarnock, now Dr. Morison of Glasgow, it is meet that we be somewhat particular in regard to his case. We may state here that it is from Dr. Morison that the denomination is nick-named *Morisonian*. And in some parts we are better known as Morisonians, than as Evangelical Unionists. Should you be in some town in Scotland, and enquire for the E. U. minister, in all probability no one knows him. But, enquire for the Morisonian minister, and you may be forthwith pointed to the residence of your friend. This is the name that people give us, and we have no reason to be ashamed of it,—no more than the Wesleyan Methodists have to be ashamed of the name given them from John Wesley. We believe Dr. James

*An Address delivered in Huntingdon E. U. church, by the Rev. James Howie on the 23rd of November 1863.