

sacred meaning, as indicating the date when the world's Saviour was born, as well as telling the time when the house was erected for His worship. Connected with the building of the Meeting house some note-worthy providential incidents occurred, which I well remember hearing related by one of the fathers of the church. The Secession was looked on with any thing but favor by the aristocracy. The contempt cherished and the opposition manifested were stronger and more general far than toward that auspicious modern Secession which issued in the Free Church in Scotland. During the days of the Erskines, and for long years after, Secession principles had a hard fight for existence in many parts of the country, and their stalwart maintainers were subjected to much trouble and no trifling sacrifices. Those residing in and around the town of C—— had every available obstacle put in their way to prevent them from erecting a place of worship. Such was the enmity and inimical influence of Lord D——, that, for a time, a site for a church could not be obtained. Neither he, nor any one else possessed of any land, would sell a portion for such a purpose. Intelligence of this fact got abroad, and a female residing in a neighbouring parish, and, if I mistake not, herself attached to the established church, had compassion on the conscientious and ill-treated Seceders, and either gifted or sold (I am not certain which) a small peice of ground owned by her at the "*town fit*," and just as near out of it as possible. However it was a suitable and lovely spot, just between and at the junction of two streams, viz., the G—— and the classic L—— that "*flows behind yon hills*." Having thus obtained ground on which to erect their church, another serious difficulty presented itself. With what were they to build it? The same enmity and influence that had kept them for a while from obtaining land now prevented them getting building materials, at any thing like convenient distance. The quarries in the neighbourhood were all closed to them. The stones had to be brought from the next parish, and I presume the lime also. As much sand was got when digging the foundation as served to make mortar till the walls rose a little, perhaps a foot or two, above the level of the ground, a further supply of sand was not to be had, though in the channel of the river or stream close by, not many yards distant, a sand-bed, bared by the summer's drought, lay as if laughing and mocking at the wants of the builders. But though quite at hand and tempting to their shovels as it must have been, yet it was legally beyond their reach. My Lord D—— claimed the channel of the stream and all its contents. Of course, the masons had to cease operations for want of sand to manufacture mortar. Thus the work stood for a time, but whether for a few days only, or for weeks I cannot tell. However, in no great time Providence supplied them with abundance of sand without putting them to any trouble or cost, not even the cost of cartage, and by means as little expected by the friends as by the foes of dissent. The Lord "sent a plenteous rain" causing an unusually high flood—in all likelihood a "*lammas flood*." The two streams which here united overflowed their banks, covering the low walls of the arrested building. When the waters