

seemed, in relation to the general question at issue, to take the part proper to the other.

I do not think the English congregation were in any degree jealous of the Gaelic one. The English contained the *elite* of the place,—all its men of property and influence, from its merchants and heritors, down to the humblest of the class that afterwards became its ten-pound franchise-holders ; whereas the Gaelic people were, as I have said, simply poor laborers and weavers ; and if the sense of superiority did at times show itself on the more potent side, it was only among the lowlier people of the English congregation. When, on one occasion, a stranger fell asleep in the middle of one of Mr. Stewart's best sermons, and snored louder than was seemly, an individual beside him was heard muttering, in a low whisper, that the man ought to be sent up to "*the Gaelic*," for he was not fit to be among them ; and there might be a few other similar manifestations ; but the parties were not on a sufficiently equal level to enact the part of those rival congregations that are forever bemoaning the shortcomings each of the other, and that in their days of fasting and humiliation have the sins of their neighbors at least as strongly before them as their own. But if the English congregation were not jealous of the Gaelic one, the Gaelic one, as was perhaps natural in their circumstances, were, I am afraid, jealous of the English : they were poor people, they used sometimes to say, but their souls were as precious as those of richer folk, and they were surely as well entitled to have their just rights as the English people,—axioms which, I believe, no one in the other congregation disputed, or even canvassed at all. We were all, however, roused one morning to consider the case, by learning that on the previous day the minister of the Gaelic chapel had petitioned the Presbytery of the district, either to be assigned a parish within the bounds of the parish of Cromarty, or to have the charge erected into a collegiate one, and his half of it, of course, rendered co-ordinate with Mr. Stewart's.

The English people were at once very angry and very much alarmed. As the two congregations were scattered all over