

They are favored spots in the chequered prospect of the past, on which the sunshine of memory falls more brightly than on most of the others.

When thus employed, there broke out very unexpectedly, a second war with the Liberal Moderates of the town, in which, unwillingly rather than otherwise, I had ultimately to engage. The Sacrament of the Supper is celebrated in most of the parish churches of the north of Scotland only once a year ; and, as many of the congregations worship at that time in the open air, the summer and autumn seasons are usually selected for the " occasion," as best fitted for open-air meetings. As, however, the celebration is preceded and followed by week-day preachings, and as on one of these week-days—the Thursday preceding the Sacramental Sabbath—no work is done, Kirk-Sessions usually avoid fixing their sacrament in a busy time, such as the time of harvest in the rural districts, or of the herring-fishing in the seaport towns ; and as the parish of Cromarty has both its rural population and its fishing one, the Kirk-Session of the place have to avoid both periods. And so the early part of July, ere the herring-fishing or the harvest comes on, is the time usually fixed upon for the Cromarty Sacrament. In this year, however (1838), it so chanced that the day appointed for the Queen's coronation proved coincident with the Sacramental Thursday, and the Liberal Moderate party urged upon the Session that the preparations for the Sacrament should give way to the rejoicings for the Coronation. We had not been much accustomed to rejoicings of the kind in the north since the good old times when respectable Tory gentlemen used to show themselves drunk in public on the King's birth-day, in order to demonstrate their loyalty : the coronation days of both George IV. and William IV. had passed off as quietly as Sabbaths ; and the Session, holding that it might be quite as well for people to pray for their young Queen at church, and then quietly drink her health when they got home, as to grow glorious in her behalf in taverns and tap-rooms, refused to alter their day. Believing that, though essentially in the right, they were yet politically in the wrong, and that a plausible case might be made out against