

them that the best order was kept in Church courts by the Kirk of Scotland. Coaches and railcars were not then in fashion, and the brethren swept over the country like a troop of Arabs, their library and wardrobe in their saddle-bags. Field preaching has now disappeared, but at that time it was held in high estimation by the common people. I have never seen such gatherings in any part of the world, and though in some instances indiscretions might be committed, yet wild characters were brought to serious reflection and received permanent impressions. I loved to hear the old ministers preach. They were plain, vigorous, and forcible, and spoke directly to the heart. They did not tear to pieces a good idea by a multitude of words. I sometimes hear sermons and do not know what to make of them. The text reminds me of a rock in the time of a springtide, seldom in sight, and the sermon of a labyrinth of digressions, like the overgrown suburbs of a town.

1865.

FAMILY PRAYER WHEN CHARLES LEFT TO BE MARRIED.

*24th Jan.*

O Lord, Thou hast been the God of our fathers, be our own God and the God of our children. We thank Thee for the abundant mercies we have enjoyed during a long and eventful life. Pour down Thy blessing on our seed and Thy Spirit on our offspring. When our children leave home to erect tents and tabernacles for themselves, may they never forget the solemn lessons and examples of their father's house. May they never forget the solemnity of a father's parting voice and a mother's tears. As no measure can succeed without the divine blessing and no undertaking miscarry with the