

them, I thought I might refrain from doing so, especially as the fault-finding had been done, *usque ad nauseam*, by others.

I knew, too, that I would seem to some to whine, with unreasonable regret, over the degeneracy of the present, as compared with the days of the fathers. Those who think they dwell where the wilderness is being transformed into a garden of the Lord, ought not to judge of Ross-shire by their experience, for here, alas! the process is just reversed. I referred to Ross-shire only; and I cannot conceive how any who desiderate, and can discern, vital godliness, who are acquainted with the past and present of this county, and who look beneath the surface, can form a more sanguine estimate than that which I have given. There are some, I know, whose eyes are so dazzled with their own lustre, that they cannot conceive of brighter days than those in which they shine. These may be angry; I care not to conciliate them. I point to their shining as a proof that I am right. The sky has surely become dark, when such lights as these appear.

I expected that many would count me credulous, some call me superstitious, and a few denounce me as fanatical, because of some anecdotes I gave, to prove how near to God were the godly men of former days. I knew that they would excite the anger of those, whose religion is but a cloak for men to