

this intercourse with the best society that my father acquired the polished manners for which he was remarkable. While in London he paid great attention to the correct pronunciation of the English language, and so far succeeded that an Englishman who had visited Cupar when he was settled there as minister afterwards said to me, 'his dialect compared to that of his parishioners was like pieces of gold among copper.'

In the year 1774 he left his pupil, then prepared for the University; but an intimate and affectionate intercourse was kept up between them, and subsisted when the Westminster School boy had become Marquis of Breadalbane and master of Tynmouth Castle.

My father soon after his return to his native country took orders, and was inducted into the living of second minister in the collegiate charge of Cupar, in the county of Fife. The stipend did not then exceed £80 a year without manse or glebe. With this slender income he soon married; but my mother was considered an heiress, having a fortune of £1500.* She had received the very best female education which Scotland could then afford, and, as I often heard, was celebrated for the grace with which she danced the *menuet de la cour*. But she was likewise distinguished for her piety, and I can myself testify that to inculcate the principles and precepts of religion upon her children was her chief care in life and in death.

My parents occupied the house next to the Bell Inn, at the corner of the street which crosses the Eden from the Edinburgh road. In this house was I born on the 15th day of September, 1779, in the midst of a tremendous hurricane, memorable for having blown the pirate Paul Jones out of the Firth of Forth, after he had landed and attacked several noblemen's houses and had caused the inhabitants on both shores to fly to arms.

I was the third child of my parents, the eldest being a daugh-

*Near seventy years afterwards our family had an 'accession of fortune' by the death of a cousin of hers of the name of Hallyburton, who died intestate, and we received about £4000 as next of kin by virtue of the Hallyburton blood.