

on the Macgregor's country. The dwellings of the inhabitants were burned, and their cattle driven away. We have no particular account of the event. It of course receives no mention in history. Before the scenes which the general historian has to describe, it fades into infinitesimal insignificance. Even local tradition scarce preserves any particulars of the affair, either of the actors in it, the events connected with it, or its immediate consequences. But in one respect we know that the most important results followed. It was the means of leading one young man, then about twenty years of age, to leave his native district, and to proceed to the Lowlands, for the purpose of obtaining employment there, and upon this simple fact, the whole of our subsequent history depends. The individual who came down some one hundred and twenty years ago, like so many more of his Highland countrymen before and since, for the purpose of improving his worldly condition, belonged to the celebrated clan Gregor, but then bore the name of James Drummond, his family having adopted that name in consequence of the outlawry of that clan, and their being forbidden to use their own name. This was the father of the subject of our Memoir, and his visit at that time was the means in the arrangements of Divine Providence of determining the character of his whole future life, and produced results which eternity alone can disclose.

We believe it is not too much to say, that at that time there was throughout a large portion of the Highlands little of religion but the name. In some places the change from Popery to Protestantism had been accomplished merely by the order of their Lairds, while except in some favoured districts the mass of the people had but little acquaintance with the glorious doctrines of the Reformation. Even some years later, it was commonly said that "Sabbath didna come aboon the pass of Killiecrankie." Of the prevalent ignorance and ungodliness James's native parish had its full share. Up till the time of his leaving for the South, he had, so far as we can learn, little or no knowledge of the doctrines of the gospel. His motives in going south appear to have been entirely of a worldly nature,