

State" in a well-thumbed copy. Such a question as the Perseverance of the Saints was a never failing source of debate. Perhaps we never got any further with our discussions, but the fact that such were the interests gave a rare zest to preparation and to pastoral work. It was indeed a sphere in which a man found his level. "Weel, *perhaps* I will be able to sit under ye," was the last shot of an aged saint as the young minister left her house at the close of his first visit.

V.

It would not be fair to talk about the life of Scotland without referring to *some of the lighter sides of it*. It was not all theology nor was it all politics. It was full of a wonderful human kindness, and lighted up with the most genuine humour. This is not the place to speak of the humour of the Scot, but the thing that gives it its peculiar quality is that it is a view of life rather than a play on words or ideas, and its grimness is due to the contrast between the greatness of the cardinal facts of life such as death, power, brains, progress, and the littleness of the people who have to deal with those facts. It is very different from the wit of the Irishman, and it only stares in quiet astonishment at the man who thinks that a pun is amusing. And so the Scot can laugh at himself and is not in the least distressed when others laugh at him. After all, those laugh longest who laugh last. He feels his footing to be so secure that it dismays him not at all to have some one question the shape of his boots. They serve his turn at all events.

VI.

It is a strange thing that there should be so *intense a love of the land of its birth* in a race so given to wandering. And in truth that homesickness is increased by the fact that the more the race wanders the more convinced it becomes that there is a matchless beauty in Scotland itself. Other lands have higher mountains and broader lakes and clearer skies; other lands have a rainy and a dry season while Scotland has just one season and that the wet one. But yet with all its disadvantages of climate, perhaps because of the large amount