

could make a man comfortable on a very tiny income if need required. He was ambitious to give all his children as good schooling as was possible, but, with his inborn Scottish instinct, one of his lads was destined to have a university training, to become ultimately a preacher of the Gospel, if possible. With this end in view, he studied each little lad intently as they came dropping into the warm home nest. The brightest and handsomest was to be given to this work, for in the heroic days of old, when the tabernacle of the Lord was visibly present among men, the priests called to minister in holy things must be free from blemish — the best representatives of their species.

He liked good books, and could read understandingly the writings of profound thinkers; but for practical, every-day wisdom he came to the Bible for guidance. He read the prophet Daniel's account of the bill of fare on which he and the other two Hebrew youths thrived so well, and substituting the coarser grain of our country for the pulse of Babylon, he had his boys trained hardily to enjoy their oaten cake or porridge twice a day, his fatherly regard for his children overcoming his Scripture belief far enough to allow them to share the savory dinners com-