

1804. which he then occupied, the chancellorship of the exchequer, and would be quoted as, perhaps, *next to himself*, the most remarkable instance in modern times of the early attainment of great public eminence by the force of talent alone; equally purchased, alas! by premature extinction, at the zenith of a brilliant career.

As the youngest and prettiest child of the family, Charles was naturally the spoilt pet of all. This would not be worthy of mention, but that it seems not impossible the same course of partial treatment, which usually, no doubt, produces a self-willed and selfish character, may, when acting upon a disposition naturally generous and full of sympathies, have failed in producing its usual bad effects, while the habit thus early permitted in the child, of considering his will to be law with all around, may have had some influence in giving to the man that self-confidence and decision, and that unconquerable determination to excel, which, in after life, became a prominent feature of his character, and exercised no slight influence towards the attainment of the success which so generally attended his exertions.

At the age of seven Charles Thomson was sent to the preparatory school of the Rev. Mr. Hannington at Hanwell, whither his elder brother, George, had preceded him; and after three years' residence there, was removed to the Rev. Mr. Woolley's at Middleton, near Tamworth, and afterwards to the Rev. Mr. Church's at Hampton, both professing to be private tutors, taking two or three pupils at