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JOHN GILMOUR.

John Gilmour was born in Ayr. Ayr is of interest to most Scotchmen because it is the town of "Rabbie Burns." It was of greater interest to the growing boy because it is a sea-port and because the sea had for him a peculiar fascination. His birthday was the fourth of August, 1792. His parents were not particularly remarkable. His mother was rich in affection and common sense, and his father, an intimate friend of Robert Burns, was a quiet, reserved man of dignified bearing and a little inclined to think that fortune had not dealt fairly with a man of his abilities. There were several other members of the family, to whom, however, no special interest attaches. In his early youth the boy shewed distinct signs of remarkable conscientiousness, and of yearnings after God; but by his ninth year the premonitory symptoms of the saint and preacher had disappeared, and the reckless sailor in him had asserted control—a control which it held until, after eleven years of reckless godlessness, he was made free indeed. His "goodness was as a morning cloud, and as the early dew it went away." The year 1807 was a very important one for him. He had begun at the almost incredibly early age of nine to go to sea, drawn, against his parents' wishes, by the spell of a powerful sailor instinct; and between that time and 1807 he had devoted himself with