

"a wise son maketh a glad father," and being established in our profession, and having a life and conversation becoming it, is no small part of that wisdom which is from above. You know, my son, that the eyes of the world will be on you, and Satan will aim his fiery darts at you, therefore take to you the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand, above all take the shield of faith. You may see the usefulness of this grace by looking on the 11th of the Hebrews. May the Lord direct you in your studies, and your heart unto the love of God and a patient waiting for the coming of the Lord. Now may the God of hope fill you with all comfort and consolation in believing, and make you to abound in every good word and work."

Again writing in the year 1804, he says, "My dear children, I was earnest with the Lord before I took the pen to write to you, that my instructions might be blessed to you. My son Peter, I have given you to the Lord, earnestly desiring that he may send you where he will make you useful for his own glory, and the good of souls. My son, beware of self; you know that it has many ways of working. O be earnest with the Lord, that he may direct you in this important matter, in which the glory of God and the good of souls is concerned."

The allusion in the last is probably to his son's proposal to go abroad as a missionary. We give below the principal part of a letter of his own to one of his brothers, dated, Glasgow, February 23rd, 1802.

DEAR BROTHER,—

I am happy to embrace every opportunity of writing you. I was much surprised and delighted by the unthought of arrival of my brothers. But I was not a little mortified when Joseph informed me that you, not without cause, were much discouraged by his departure along with some other distressing circumstances. It grieved me to the heart to be informed of the death of your little daughter, before I heard of her birth; but I hope that since the Lord has dealt with you, though in an inferior degree as he dealt with afflicted Job, he will also impart, according to his promise, the same grace to you by which he was enabled to say with some degree of satisfaction, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord." As we have no reason to think that we are to be exempted from trouble, for "man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble," it becomes us to live in the habitual exercise of those religious principles, which will support us under all our afflictions, for we are able to do and suffer all things by Christ strengthening us. And when we consider that this life is but a vapour, which appeareth but for a little and then vanisheth away, it becomes us not to be too much dejected by its adversities, nor too much lifted up by prosperity, but to serve, if possible, an evenness and firmness of soul, amidst all the boisterous waves of life. This is a duty and a privilege also. * * * *

As for myself I am succeeding tolerably well in teaching. The number of my scholars is about 45 at present, and I intend to begin a night class next month, and expect to have a pretty good number at it also, by which I hope to make some money, if possible; for as yet I have only procured as much as to enable me to obtain a very moderate living, and defray small necessary expenses. For had it been otherwise, I certainly would have sent some to you. I got indeed about twenty or twenty-two shillings at Candlemass from my scholars, called a Candlemass gift, which I would certainly have sent to you, had I not been under the absolute necessity of pay-