

ander Ewing met Catharine Stewart, daughter of Major Stewart of Pittyvaich in Banffshire, who became his wife in 1835, just after he had finished at Edinburgh, and three months after he had come of age.

The beginning was fair ; all seemed prosperous for the voyage of life. What could any one wish more than youth, a sufficient income, a pleasant dwelling, time and capacity to enjoy the pleasures of life ? The marriage took place in June and on the 12th of August there was eager preparation at Inverugie for a campaign on the moors, but just as they were ready to start for Inverness-shire, John, the brother, was seized with an attack of bronchitis. Soon after Alexander was also prostrate, and his life was despaired of. Many months passed before he was again restored, but, in fact, his recovery was never complete. He had no more shooting on the heather hills. Life had become serious. Books absorbed him. A hidden life was being developed. He read Wilberforce's "Practical View of Christianity," Abbott's "Corner Stone," and he pondered on the lives of such men as Frederic Oberlin and Henry Martyn. His biographer says, "It does not appear that any special change was noticeable in what may be called the religious aspects of his character, when Mr. Ewing began to link up again the broken threads of his active pursuits. Religion was never with him so much the object of life, as rather the inspiration and elevation of it. There is, in scientific language, no solution of continuity in his history—no great epoch of revolution—but a gradual advancement to the recognition of the claims of Christ over his heart and will, a deepening sense of his own unworthiness to be called a son of God, and an augmenting yearning after nearer conformity to that image of perfect graciousness and trueness which our Lord and Elder Brother unveiled to the world."

His medical advisers had recommended him to go to the south of Europe, but before setting out for Italy, as he had resolved on offering himself to the Scotch Episcopal Church, he applied for ordination to the Bishop of Ross and Moray, by whom in September, 1838, he was admitted to the office of a deacon.

Mr. Ewing was three years in Italy, from 1838 to 1841. While there he received a letter from the Bishop of Ross and Moray, saying, that he had been elected minister of the Episcopal congregation at Forres. On his return the offer of the charge was renewed to him, but as yet the congregation had no church. A house called Brodie Cottage, about four miles from Forres, was hired, and Mr. Ewing began his duties. The same year he was admitted to the order of presbyters by the Bishop of