

county, his body strengthened by the keen air of its open moors, his character braced by the austere simplicity of his life. He lost his father early, and thenceforth the family became wholly Presbyterian. When he was about six years old, the household removed to Aberdeen, and a year or two later to the adjoining town of Old Aberdeen, a sleepy, picturesque, and uncommercial adjunct of the cold granite city, having little reason for existence apart from its University, the intellectual centre of the Pictish nation. George received the basis of his very solid education at the Old Aberdeen Grammar School, familiarly known as the "Old Barn," but none the less celebrated as a training house of most able scholars. For the long-headed Aberdonians have given in our time more famous men to Britain at large than any other group of equal size in the whole of our islands.

"He was accounted an excellent pupil there," says his sister, Annie, "being very steady, very serious. He was popular out-of-doors, too, playing football and cricket with zest. Not all his mental work was done for his master at school. We used to have—they have disappeared in our many wanderings—a bundle of his essays. A few