

was out of their power to offer any thing more than a very trivial and inadequate remuneration. Nay, in the midst of all their difficulties and distresses, they have endeavoured with persevering zeal to sustain the character of their own body, in regard to learning, and they have succeeded in doing so, in a way that reflects the highest honor, not only on their zeal, but their talents. Not a few names of very considerable celebrity in the past literature of Scotland, are to be found among the scattered and impoverished members of this Apostolical Church; and even in our own time, the talents of many men have been devoted to its service, who might easily have commanded what less heroic spirits would have thought a far more precious kind of reward, had they chosen to seek in other pursuits and professions, what they well knew this could never afford them. In Edinburgh, two very handsome chapels have of late years been erected by the Episcopalians, and the clergymen who officiate in them, possess faculties eminently calculated for extending the reputation of their Church. Dr. Sandford, the Bishop of the diocese, preaches regularly in the one, and the minister of the other is no less a person than Mr. Alison, the celebrated author of the *Essays on Taste*, and of those exquisite Sermons which I have so often heard you speak of in terms of rapture, and which indeed no man can read, who has either taste or feeling, without admiration almost as great as yours.

“The Bishop is a thin pale man, with an air and aspect full of a certain devout and melancholy sort of abstraction, and a voice which is very tremulous, yet deep in its tones, and managed so as to produce a very striking and impressive effect. In hearing him, after having listened for several Sundays to the more energetic Presbyterians, one feels as if the atmosphere had been changed round, and the breath of a milder, gentler inspiration had suffused itself over every sound that vibrates through the stillness of a more placid æther. Nothing can be more touching than the paternal affection with which this good man regards his flock; it every now and then gives a gushing richness of power to his naturally feeble voice, and a no less beautiful richness to his usually chaste and modest style of language. He has the character here, as well as at Oxford where he was educated, of being at once a fine scholar and a deep divine. He preaches, however, in a very simple, unaffected, and pleasing manner, without any kind of dis-