

LIFE OF JAMES CROIL

AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY.

CHAPTER I.

EARLY DAYS, GOVAIL, THEN AND NOW: GLASGOW AND EDINBURGH.

I WAS born at No. 5 Bath Street, Glasgow, on September 4th, 1821, and was baptised by Rev. Dr. Meek of Hamilton on the 28th of that month—so runs the record in the family Bible. My father was a native of Cargill, Perthshire. He became a West India merchant and amassed what was accounted in those days a considerable fortune. A likely man he was in every respect—of a good presence, sound judgment and common sense. He was an elder in the Inner High Church and stood well in the commercial community of the western Metropolis. He died in 1826, being then only fifty years of age. leaving a family of four sons and six daughters. The younger children, myself included, had thus only an indistinct recollection of their father, and knew not what manner of man he was. He was buried in the dismal Crypt of the Ramshorn Church, where his tomb is hidden from mortal eyes, for all time. Why he was buried there I could never understand, unless it was that the burying ground of St. Mungo's was by that time quite full. Another strange thing it seemed to me was that while our father presumably worshipped in the High Church, the family had pews both in St. George's and St. Enoch's Churches, which were occupied alternately at the morning and afternoon services. It may have been that a sufficient number of sittings for so large a family could not be obtained in either of these Churches which was then the most fashionable and best frequented in the City.