

Towards the close of 1841, when he was ten years old, the country lad found himself one morning as a "new boy" among the young gentlemen of the Academy. Of course they quizzed his clothes and Corsoch *patois*. That afternoon he went home with his tunic of hodden-grey tweed in rags, his round frill collar crumpled up, his squared-toed shoes with brazen clasps none the better for the day's wear, and thenceforth known as "Dafty." But he was not irritated nor disconcerted; it was a new phase of life, which he contemplated with amused curiosity. Before the academic course of six years was ended, however, he had won his way to the hearts and to the respect of masters and boys. Always observant, always studious, loving nature, loving books, agile, imperturbable, good-natured, humorous, his early youth passed away, each year scoring marks of real progress. Having of course learned his "questions" as a child, he became equally acquainted with the Catechisms of the Scotch and English Churches, and heard the best preachers among Presbyterians and Episcopalians.

From the Academy he went, in 1846, to the University of Edinburgh, where he attended classes during three sessions. Professor James D. Forbes, of the Natural Philosophy Class, was his favourite teacher, and between pupil and Professor there then began a lifelong friendship. Forbes encouraged him in his scientific studies, allowed him the use of his experimental room and apparatus, and introduced him to the meetings of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. To be thus favoured was a proof that he was considered to possess high character as well as genius. Under the influence that thus surrounded him, Maxwell soon burst into a splendour of reputation of which his earlier years gave no adequate promise. It was an unusual thing for papers to be communicated to the Royal Society by a youth under sixteen while still at school; papers which the President, Sir Thomas M. Brisbane, described as ingenious and original. The first was on "Oval Curves, and those having a Plurality of Foci." The paper was read by Professor Forbes himself, who added comments of his own. To mathematical problems there were soon added studies in