

since he, for the first time, "tasted that the Lord is gracious." That young man was Dr. Macdonald's father, then in his eighteenth year.

A few years later, James Macdonald, now a married man, might have been seen among the worshippers in the church at Creich. Mr. Rose is in the pulpit. There is no gleam of gladness now on James' face, for the joy of his espousals has departed from his heart. He sits in darkness, and his downcast look tells how feeble is his hope that light shall arise on him again. But how fixed his attention has become! The preacher has described a case which he recognises as his own; and, having done so, added, "Thou art seeking Christ, but thou shalt not find him here. On thy return home, retire at once to thy wonted place of prayer, and He whom thou seekest shall there meet with thy soul. Satan will try to intercept thee; but beware of yielding to his temptation." The service over, James returned home, pondering by the way the advice which had been given. On coming within sight of his house, he observed two of his neighbours standing together before the door. Approaching nearer, he discovered that they had quarrelled, and heard in their angry utterances, threats of personal violence. Remembering the counsel given to him in the church at Creich, he hurried past the disputants to his praying nook in the barn, and ere he left it, he could say, "My beloved is mine, and I am his."