

standing, but was so dilapidated by age as no longer to be fit for use. It was accordingly pulled down, and a more commodious and elegant church erected in its place, which stands at this day in Infirmary Street, near the College. During the building of the new edifice, the congregation met for divine service in St. Cuthbert's Chapel, better known as the Chapel of Ease. This place of worship, though seated for five or six hundred persons, was found quite inadequate to contain the large congregation that assembled in Lady Yester's. Mr. Black was at this time one of the most popular ministers who ever stood in a pulpit. He drew large crowds of deeply-interested and attached hearers. His discourses were distinguished for their high Calvinistic views, their deep piety, and decided practical tendency. Of him it might be said with truth, that he not only preached the Gospel, but lived the Gospel. Such a ministry could not fail to be blessed and owned by the Great Head of the Church, in the conversion of many souls. It was chiefly through Mr. Black's instrumentality that the remarkable revival at Moulin took place, a particular account of which was given by Dr. Stewart, then the Pastor of that parish. His serious conversation was singularly blessed to Dr. Stewart, as he himself mention-, and led him to take very different views of the nature and design of the Christian ministry, from those which he once entertained. The blessed effects of this change soon began to appear in his ministry. A lively concern among his people for their spiritual interests soon manifested itself; eternity alone will reveal all the happy results which followed from this one revival. Mr. Black's house, which was in North Richmond Street, was a favorite place of rendez-vous for the Godly of that time, and for those who were enquiring the way to Zion. It was here that the Haldanes and John Campbell, the well known African Missionary, used to meet. Prayer meetings were frequently held in his house. Mr. J. Haldane, who was then but a novice in this exercise, used to make it a frequent petition that the Lord would lose the stammerer's tongue, a petition which was afterwards abundantly answered, in that he subsequently became a distinguished minister and wrestler in Zion. On these occasions it was often a subject of serious and anxious discussion, whether it was the duty of any one to remain in connection with a confessedly corrupt church, as the Church of Scotland then was; in other words, whether any conscientious Christian could remain in the Established Church of Scotland, in many of whose pulpits the doctrines of grace were never mentioned. Robert and James Haldane always argued in favor of separation, while Mr. Black spoke most strenuously against such a course; thinking it best to fight the battles of the Lord within the pale of the Establishment, to testify against abuses, and to endeavour after their removal. Mr. Black's influence was not confined to his own body, but extended to other denominations even to the most distant parts of England. It was under his auspices and that of other godly ministers, that the celebrated Dr. Carey made an attempt to be admitted as a minister of the Church of Scotland. This attempt was, however, frustrated and was no doubt overruled for good. It occasioned his afterwards becoming the first Herald of the cross to India. Mr. Black and those who adhered to him, argued strongly before the General Assembly in favour of admitting Mr. Carey. For this he incurred much odium from the moderate party, by whom he was held up as a democrat and an innovator. Though Mr. Black always made it a point to attend the Church courts, he very seldom took any part in their debates. His pastoral duties he faithfully discharged, and though there were a great number of souls under his care, he was most diligent in visiting them from house to house, exhorting and rebuking with all long suffering and patience; he even went into places not generally visited by any minister, acting on the principle, that the more hardened in wickedness men were, the more they stood in need of spiritual instruction