

following May, this was ordered to be printed, and to be read in every pulpit of the body. Mr. Gordon heard it read in the congregation of Brechin, and was so impressed with the earnestness of its appeals, that he resolved to devote himself to study with a view to the work of the ministry, and with the determination that if God should count him faithful, putting him into the work of the ministry, he would devote himself to the work of the Lord in America. From this resolution he never swerved.

Of his religious history up to this date we know nothing more than that he had the example and training of a pious household. His mother we believe died early. His father, from letters in our possession, as well as from the information we have received from other members of the family appears to have been a pious man and one who ruled well his own house. It is worthy of remark that the son first made a profession of religion about the same time that he resolved to devote himself to the work of the ministry. "I recollect well," said the late Mr. Gray of Brechin, in a letter to the late Dr. Robertson, "that he was admitted a communicant in 1794 at my first sacrament."

The work to which he had now devoted himself was one involving serious difficulties. His parents were not in circumstances to afford him the means of prosecuting his studies; and we have been informed that his father was at first opposed to his change of employment. The best period of life for the commencement of classical studies was past; but the perseverance and diligence with which he encountered and overcame all the obstacles in his path afford a most valuable example to others in similar circumstances. Says Mr. Gray in the same letter, "he laboured some time at the loom before he thought of becoming a student. The late Mr. Munro of Nigg, who taught a school in the place at that time, instructed him in Latin; and our present chief magistrate, provost Guthrie, who was a pupil of Mr. Munro's, at the same period, mentioned a circumstance strongly indicative of vigorous application and perseverance on the part of Mr. Gordon. He would walk every day the distance of from three to four miles, from Carreston to Brechin in order to repeat his lesson, and returning, would ply the labour of the loom with his book lying before him, accomplishing, in addition to all his travel, the works of the weaver and the tasks of the scholar."

Having in this way become prepared for college he entered the University of Glasgow, in which he completed the usual curriculum. Notwithstanding the disadvantages of his early training he passed through his collegiate course with credit. The late Dr. Keir, who was his fellow student informed us that though he did not manifest any extraordinary talents, or take the highest honors, he yet maintained a respectable position in all the classes; and that though he showed a want of that outward polish, which is acquired by intercourse with cultivated minds, yet this was also removed, so that he was in after life marked for refinement of mind and manners.

Having completed his university course, he entered upon the study of theology under the Rev. Archibald Bruce, then Professor to the General Associate Synod, and during the vacations he taught school in Glasgow.

Of his student life either at the University or at the Hall we have but little information. Some extracts from his correspondence at the time may however let in a little light upon the subject. The following extracts of letters from his father indicate creditable features in both. Writing in April, 1802, he says, "I received your letter, dated the 9th of February on the 11th of the same, and was much comforted by it. You know that