

fashioned or educated by the age—as his mental and moral resources must grow amid scenes favorable to free and original contemplation,—so Mr. Gunn was an independent growth. Whatever his merits or defects—his character, or his views, or his manners, they were all his own. In similar circumstances, some characters would grow out into rudeness and vulgarity. But his truly Christian convictions and finer perceptions preserved him from such faults. His plainness and simplicity never degenerated into coarseness. He remained in the best sense a gentleman, without any conventional ways.

Originality and independence colored his thoughts of men and things. He never tried to think as others thought. His views were his own—a much rarer merit than is generally imagined. It is only when we descend beneath the surface that we find how few independent thinkers and doers are in the world. Most men wait upon others. They are followers or imitators. Or they are selfish, and wish to make a good impression. On the events and the men of the hour—political or religious, American or European, he formed an independent opinion. Though a strong Protestant and an earnest witness against Popish heresy, he respected the piety and earnestness of the Roman Catholic people. The currents of human feeling flowed in him so naturally and strongly, that he never forgot that they were men like himself, and that the sun and the sky shone upon them too, and their hearts were also stirred by the tides of death and life, and the powers of the world to come. Hence he was beloved by the large Roman Catholic population among whom he lived as much as by his own people.

While he had no sympathy with sin and no indulgence towards crime, or dishonesty, or hypocrisy, or malice, however veiled by length of visage or ignorant pretensions, he had a gentle heart for the weaknesses and imperfections of poor human nature. He would take nothing from the law of God. The principles of truth and honor and purity found in him a stern interpreter. But when he found a man with an honest heart, a sincere attachment to the Church of Christ, and respect for its ordinances, and an honest desire for improvement and freedom from all pretensions, then would he hold out a helping hand to such, and, in dispensing the ordinances of the church to such persons, would follow his own convictions and take his own way.

The sufferer never met with a more tender sympathiser or more disinterested benefactor. His doctrinal views were the Calvinism of the last generation, but his practice was the religion of the gospels as taught in the parable of the Good Samaritan, and shown in the life of Him who lived as he taught and went about doing good. In the interest of benevolence he put no value upon money. He would strip himself of his last penny. And when that was gone, he would give his property. In times of famine and suffering from failure of crops, he was a father to large numbers of suffering people. He clothed the naked and fed the hungry. And yet he taught and showed that he considered the interests of the body were insignificant when compared with those of the undying soul. Such sentiments established between him and his people relations of the most friendly and congenial nature. His word was law, and his numerous and often amusing exactions of little services were oblations of love. He ordered because it was a pleasure for them to obey. He thought they felt as he did. The offices of love were claimed by a friend, who would have spared no pains or means to serve the true interests of his people.

Mr. Gunn was a shrewd judge of men. His eye was keen and watchful, and, after a short acquaintance, character revealed itself to his rapid instinct. Persons who mistook him, from his blunt way and plain exterior, for an unsophisticated man, and might attempt to play upon him or with him, would soon be made to feel their mistake. They would find that the plain man of the country had read them through and through. He could appreciate wit, and enjoy the comical side of things. Witty he could certainly be when he