

the rent she paid for the whole was ten shillings per annum. The gathering of this sum, after she received the heavy handful of Andrew, a weak and ailing baby, required no little care. But instead of repining at the burden, she often declared to the neighbours that he was "great company, and though at times a wee fashious, he's an auld-farand bairn, and kent a raise frae a black clock before he had a tooth; putting the taen in his mouth wi' a smirk, but skreighing like desperation at the sight o' the ither."

During the summer of the first year after Andrew had been brought home to her, she was generally seen sitting with her wheel, basking in the sun, at the gable of her cottage, with her grandson at her side in her biggest stool, turned upside down, amusing himself with the cat.

Andrew was a small and delicate child; but he grew apace, and every day, in the opinion of his grandmother, improved in his looks. "His een," as she said to her kimmers while she dandled him at the door as they stopped to speak to her in passing, "are like gowans in a May morning, and his laugh's as blithe as the lilt o' the linty."

Philosophers, in these expressions, may discover the fond anticipations of hopeful affection looking forward to a prosperous fortune for the child; but Andrew, for a long time, showed no indication of possessing any thing in common with the talents that are usually supposed requisite to ensure distinction or riches. In his boyhood, however, Mariha frequently observed "that he was a pawkie laddie, and if he wasna a deacon at book lair, he kent as weel as the maister nimsel' how mony blue beans it taks to mak five."

The "maister" here spoken of was Dominie Tannyhill, one of those meek and modest novices of the Scottish priesthood, who, never happening to meet with any such stroke of good fortune as the lot of a tutor in a laird's family, wear out the even tenor of their blameless days in the little troubles of a village school.

At the time when Andrew was placed under his care, the master seemed to be about forty, but he was probably two or three years younger. He was pale and thin, and under the middle size, and stooped a little, as if his head had been set on