

His parents were respectable in the position which they occupied among the working classes. His mother was, in particular, esteemed an excellent, pious woman, and to her, as long as she lived, he was greatly attached. He had two brothers, the elder of whom died, if we recollect rightly, several years ago, was a man of talent, and wrote a number of excellent articles on the Corn Laws in the Glasgow Journal, nearly 40 years ago. The younger brother is we believe, still alive. His schoolmaster was the late Dr. Thomas Dick, celebrated for his works on Astronomy. He was brought up under the ministry of the late Rev. John Jamieson of the Secession Church, Methven, one of the kindest of men, a genius, and sometimes called the Chalmers of the Secession. We know not when his attention was turned to the holy ministry, or when he formed the resolution to become a preacher of the gospel, but when Mr. Jamieson, his minister, came to know it, he greatly encouraged him to go forward. The circumstances of his parents were such that they could give him but little pecuniary help in prosecuting his studies; but a great friend of his own, Mr. David Sword, a merchant in the village, and a very worthy man, helped him, we believe, to get along at the commencement of his University course. He went to the University in 1821, and if we recollect rightly, it was the Glasgow University which he attended for his first two sessions. For his third session, 1823-24, he went to St. Andrews, and studied Moral Philosophy under the justly celebrated Dr. Chalmers; and here also in a subsequent session he studied Natural Philosophy. During his preparatory course of study for the ministry, he taught school in the village of Balcurnie, Fifeshire, from the summer of 1822 to the harvest vacation of 1829, but during the three last sessions of the University course, he had a substitute in his school. While here he had the great advantage of being under the ministry of Donald Frazer, D.D., of Kennoway, a superior preacher and Theologian. Having gone through the usual University course of studies appointed by the United Secession Church, before entering the Divinity Hall, and having been examined as to his literary attainments by the U.S. Presbytery of Cupar, he was certified to the Divinity Hall of the United Secession Church in Glasgow, then under the sole Professorship of the learned and accurate Dr. Dick. He entered the Divinity Hall in the session of 1824, and after he had completed his five years course of Divinity studies, he was taken on trials for license by the Presbytery of Cupar, and was licensed on the 6th of April, 1830, to preach the glorious gospel of the blessed God. Shortly after being licensed, he was put on the list of probationers, and within a few months he was called by the congregation of Savock O'Deer, in the Presbytery of Stewartfield, to be their pastor; and on the 28th December of the same year he was ordained and inducted into the pastoral charge of that congregation. In this charge he continued for about seventeen months, when he demitted it, not on the ground of any disagreement between him and his people, or of the want of success as pastor of the congregation, as is obvious from the following extract from his letter of demission which he laid before the Presbytery, and which we have at present before us. "In laying this demission and request before you, (the Presbytery), I deem it necessary to state that it is from no disagreement between me and my congregation since I was set over them as their pastor. We have lived in harmony and peace. They on all occasions have treated me with kindness and respect. They honestly and faithfully, as it regards me, have endeavoured to act up to the injunction of the Apostle, 'Know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and esteem them very highly in love for their works sake.' And it also becomes me with gratitude to record the goodness of God both to me and my congregation since I was connected with them as their pastor. The cause of Christ, so far as human observation extends, we have reason to say has prospered in our hands. A numerous auditory has steadily attended the administration of ordinances; and numbers from time to time, I trust, of such as shall be saved, have been added to the Church." We shall