

who was removed to a more lucrative post, which he was thought more competent to fill, namely, that of King's Printer for Scotland. I attended Dr. Finlayson two sessions, embracing the ordinary branches, Pneumatology in the first year, and Metaphysics, or the higher philosophy of mind, in the second. Our teacher aimed at being useful rather than at being brilliant. He did not perplex young minds with any such strange "conceits" as are now ordinarily submitted to them; but he gave us a plain and intelligible account of the powers and capabilities of the human mind, with most suitable rules and suggestions for their right improvement and guidance. He gave us quite enough, and perhaps more than enough, on syllogism, perhaps too little on Lord Bacon's method of induction, and next to nothing at all on Rhetoric and Belles Lettres. I look back on these lectures, however, with deep gratitude and interest. They were well fitted to form the mind to think, and they were read so slowly, and with so many repetitions (all for the sake of the pupils) as to render it easy for us to take down full notes. We had regular *viva voce* examinations, and six essays were prescribed during the course; and every student who wrote *three*, had the honour of reading one in the class at the close of the session.

The Teachers of Mathematics in the College of Edinburgh in my days were, Professors Playfair and Leslie, but they were both by far too scientific for boys; very few attended them, and we found a most excellent substitute in a private teacher, Mr. William Laidlaw, a Dumfrieshire man, of mild, gentlemanly manners, and competent abilities for his work. We were taught by him also the elements of Logarithms, of the use of which I now retain little more than the recollection that on a bright April morning, at five o'clock, we found ourselves along with our much respected teacher, posted on the soft sands of the Firth of Forth, at Portobello, and busily engaged with our varied apparatus, measuring the height of "Largo Law," and the most prominent of those "Hills in Fife," about the "prospects" from which I may tell, by and