

attained the primeval age of ninety. But on each occasion the new house was reared after the pattern of its predecessor, so that the present farm house is considered to be a correct model of Buchanan's maternal residence. It is only "a lowly cottage thatched with straw," but, though humble, it is often visited by scholars and others who love to recall the memory of departed genius. It appears that his early capacity for learning soon began to discover itself, for his maternal uncle, James Heriot, sent him to Paris to prosecute his studies. In this city he doubtless had many advantages; and he appears to have applied himself diligently to the Latin and Greek tongues, but his uncle dying at the end of two years, he was obliged to return to Scotland. He was at this time sixteen years of age, in a state of weak health, brought on by hard study and privations. He spent nearly a year in recruiting, after which he was so far well that he assumed the character of a soldier. He joined the French auxiliaries when they came over to aid the Scots, when they laid siege to the Castle of Werk. It serves to give us a vivid view of his ardour of mind at this age, when he tells us that he joined the army for the purpose of understanding the art of war—and certainly in no other way than by observation and practice can we have any just idea of war, either as a science or art. In another part of his writing, Buchanan speaks of a certain congruity between the pursuits of literature and the military profession; and though the well known instances of Horace and Demosthenes are not so favorable to this view of the matter, there are, however, many examples that might be adduced in proof of the observation—David, the sweet singer of Israel, who could charm by his music the gloomy spirit of Saul, was one of the bravest of warriors; and Xenophon and Josephus, the greatest historians that have flourished, were distinguished soldiers. The siege of Werk was raised, and it does not appear that Buchanan was much enamored with the profession of arms. Dr. Irving says the hardships he had endured "reduced him to his former state of languor, and during the rest of the winter he was confined to his bed."

In the spring of 1524, after he had completed his eighteenth year, he was sent to the University of St. Andrew's, that he might have the benefit of the prelections of John Mair, a famous teacher of logic. It would appear, however,

that he formed no great opinion of the value of the labours of that very erudite personage.—At this time logic was used rather for cloaking error than discovering truth. It would seem also that Buchanan was too much devoted to the study of classical authors to have much relish for the dry discussions of the dialectician—for besides an epigram he wrote against Mair, we find him in the brief account, which, at the request of his friends, he drew up of his own life, referring to this passage of his history,—“He was sent,” he says, “to the College of St. Andrews to hear John Mair who there in his extreme old age taught logic, or more truly sophistry.” It appears that his eldest brother Patrick came along with him to St. Andrews, and was matriculated at the same time. He seems to have been a man of great learning as well as piety, and at his death which happened long after the time we now refer to, Buchanan devoted some verses to his memory—

Were it becoming that in private grief  
I should indulge, brother I'd weep for thee,  
Snatched from me—equal to whom in learning  
And purity of manners, this our age  
Hath brought forth few—but why this tear? the good  
Of friends is cause of joy, and therefore joy  
I would, the crown above that fades not, now is yours.

At St. Andrews Buchanan received, on the 5th of October, 1525, the degree of Bachelor of Arts, and still intent on the prosecution of literature he returned to Paris, and entered a Student in the Scottish College in that city.—The students attending the University of Paris came from different countries, and were classed according to their nations, as is still the case in our colleges; it would appear Buchanan had risen to distinction, for he was chosen procurator of the German nation, under which the Scots were included. It was at this time that the doctrines of Luther were spreading widely over Europe, and Buchanan for the first time caught the genial flame, and this was the cause of the many hardships which for a long time beset his path. Two years after this he was appointed a professor in St. Barbe's College, and some may be ready to think that he had now reached a station of ease and affluence, but in this they would be judging by what they see in modern times. The reformation did much for learning in Europe. The reformers (for learning had heralded in this glorious era) appealed to the scriptures as the only rule of faith and manners, and seeing that the Scriptures and the early fathers were all in favour of the new state of

\* Dr. Irving published his Life of George Buchanan in the year 1805.