

same month he first appeared as a public preacher at Dunkeld, in Perthshire; soon after, he was frequently and regularly engaged in this delightful work; and thus at an early period he attained the height of his ambition. The service of the gospel he loved supremely for its own sake; and, when privileged thus to be employed, the desires of his heart were satisfied. He remained at Dundee till November, and then came to Glasgow to prosecute his studies under the Rev. Greville Ewing.

While at Dundee he felt he was in danger of losing the freshness and vigour of his spirituality while attending to his academical pursuits: however, the religious exercises conducted under the superintendence of his excellent tutor, the prayer-meetings which the students regularly kept up, and the opportunities of preaching which he enjoyed, tended, in a great measure, to preserve his spirit. At Glasgow, however, he was more exposed to temptation. The studies of the young men with whom he was associated, though chiefly confined to theology, generated a spirit of speculation, which, in too many instances, led to envy and strife. He felt their polluting influence; and many things occurred at this time on which he could not reflect with pleasure. He continued under the tuition of Mr. Ewing for fifteen months. Mr. Barclay loved him as his tutor, and enjoyed his ministry as his pastor; yet it does not appear, from the record he has left of the exercises of his mind at this period, that his soul prospered and was in health.

After leaving the Academy, Mr. Barclay was for twelve months at the disposal of a Society which then existed for sending the gospel to destitute parts of Scotland. Applications from persons in various quarters were made to this Society that he might be sent to labour among them. It was intended by the Society that

he should be sent to Cambuslang; but a petition from the friends in Kilwinning was so pressing, that the Society hesitated, and referred the matter to himself; and he, though willing to go wherever Providence might direct, for several reasons gave the preference to Kilwinning; and there at length his lot was cast. In April, 1802, he began his labours in the gospel at Kilwinning. He had not been there long till the attendance on his ministry began to decrease. This was to him a source of severe trial, and made him almost regret that he had not gone to Cambuslang. His trials, however, drove him to God, and for years before this the throne of grace had not been so peculiarly precious to him as it was at that time. He continued to labour with diligence and perseverance at the centre and round the circumference of his station; and, while he had much to discourage him, he was cheered by the attention and approbation of those whose judgment he most valued, who approved of, and were benefitted by, his faithful ministrations. Thus he continued, labouring with little, or no apparent success; and ere long a change took place in his views and practice that gave a complexion to all his future life.

Shortly after Mr. Barclay settled in Kilwinning, a friend at a distance wrote to inform him of some scruples he had respecting the propriety of infant baptism; and requesting Mr. Barclay to lend his aid in endeavouring to remove these difficulties. Mr. Barclay therefore turned his attention to the subject; but, upon trial, found himself unable to remove the scruples of his friend to his own satisfaction, and therefore did not attempt to render him any assistance. He began, however, to be impressed with the evil of remaining in doubt respecting an institution of Christ: and especially for one in the situation in which he