

ing passage :—"Never was there a soul more susceptible of friendship, or endowed with more of a tender, affectionate, and sympathising disposition. My intimate correspondence with him, for two years and a half, gave me peculiar proofs of this ; and some of the instances of his friendship were such, as I believe, can scarcely find a parallel, either in ancient or modern times ; though I have reason for not being more particular on this head. To him, in every distress and perplexity, with freedom I could unbosom my most hidden pains, without the least doubt of their remaining as secret, as if they had been confined within his own breast. He felt my joys and sorrows as if they had been his own. He kindly warned me of whatever he thought amiss in my conduct, and took it well when I used the same freedom with him."

It appears that Dr. Erskine cultivated the friendship of several eminent Divines in the neighbouring city of Glasgow,—of these we may mention Mr. John MacLaurin, the celebrated author of the *Essays*,—Professor Leechman,—Dr. Gillies, author of the *Life of Whitfield*, &c. And here it was, in the manse of Kirkintilloch, he formed a friendship which lasted to the end of his life, with an honourable lady, daughter to Lord Reay. This was on the 15th June, 1746.

It was about this time that Mr. Whitfield was engaged in his evangelical labours in Scotland. He had preached first among the brethren who had seceded from the Church of Scotland on the ground of patronage,—having expressed a desire, however, to extend his ministrations within the pale of the establishment, this led to a solemn meeting of the brethren at Dunfermline, to reason with him on the subject. The following scene, as reported by Sir H. Moncrief may be here given. "Why should I preach only for you?" said Mr. Whitfield.—"Because," replied Mr. Ralph Erskine, "we are the Lord's people." "But," said Mr. Whitfield, "has the Lord no other people than yourselves ! And, supposing that all others were the devil's people, have not they so much the more need to be preached to, and, shall I say nothing to them?" After this time, Mr. Whitfield joined himself, while in Scotland, to the evangelical party in the Church, to the great annoyance of the seceders, some of whom went so far as to say he was an emissary of the devil. It was at this time that a great revival of true religion had occurred at Cambuslang,

and he, along with others, assisted Mr. McCulloch, the minister of that parish, in his labours among the people. These revivals called forth the earnest attention of Dr. Erskine, and he published a pamphlet concerning them, which he called "*The Signs of the Times*." It is altogether becoming, even in the most gifted of Zion's watchmen, to be looking and longing for the shadows of night fleeing away, and the shining of the morning. At the same time, there is need for much caution, lest we should be led astray by an ardent imagination. It may be allowed, however, that Dr. Erskine takes a moderate view, when he considers them to be signals held forth from time to time of the approach of the glory of the latter day. At Kirkintilloch Dr. Erskine's labours appear to have been very extensive. He prepared three discourses in the week for his people, and besides the productions already mentioned, he published four Sermons, and an *Essay*, intended to promote the more frequent dispensation of "the Lord's Supper." And neither should we omit to notice, that Dr. Erskine carried on an extensive correspondence with a number of Christian Ministers on this side of the Atlantic, at this time much attached to the interests of Great Britain, and more especially to the Mother Church of Scotland. He appears to have taken much interest in this correspondence, and in furnishing his friends with books published in Britain, and receiving American ones in return. His chief correspondents on this continent, while at Kirkintilloch, as given by the Honourable Baronet, who has written his life, "were Mr. Cooper, Dr. Colman, Mr. Foxcroft, Mr. Morehead, Messrs. Prince, Senior and Junior, of Boston, Mr. Parsons, of Newburgh in Massachusetts, (in whose house Mr. Whitfield died in 1770,) Mr. Roby, of Lynn, Mr. Davies and Mr. Dickinson, of New Jersey, and Jonathan Edwards, of Northampton. \* \* \* He survived them all" he adds, "and appears to have continued his correspondence with their descendants to a very late period, in which he discovers a degree of tenderness and interest equally creditable to the memory of the dead, and to the character of the living." He still continued his correspondence with his friend, Dr. Warburton. In one of that eminent person's letters, we find him expostulating with Dr. Erskine, on the subject of using his pen so seldom in behalf of religion. "There are many