

a miserable, trivial, unreasonable reason! And yet it was there, and it counted. He knew that to follow the leading of his heart was to bring mortification to the soul of a proud father, and bitter disappointment to the heart of a most loving mother. The thought of doing this was inexpressibly painful. The filial instinct born in him from his Highland ancestry was exceedingly strong. The command, "Honour thy father and thy mother," was in his case written, not on tables of stone, but on fleshy tables of the heart. It ran in the blood that coursed through his veins, and now, coming in conflict with the filial instinct, arose the great imperative of the monogamous man demanding for himself the chosen woman, "the elect lady." It was through this conflict, necessitated in his case by the sectarian spirit, that McCheyne came to his closest perception of the evil resulting from the unhappy divisions in the Church of Christ. The great anomaly had come home to his own heart.