

turn the eye of a backsliding generation to their good old ways.

I am not very anxious to excuse myself for the manner in which, any more than for the subject on which, I have written. I might plead that I never wrote with care before, and that I had but little leisure for my first attempt, but if I did not do the best I could, I ought to have done nothing. Amidst my usual employment, when in health, I found no time for "making books," and it was not, till laid aside by sickness from my wonted work, that the purpose of this book was formed. But health returned ere I had begun to write, and, being afraid to abandon my design, I gave, to its execution, such snatches of time, as were left unoccupied by labours which I could not abridge.

I cannot account for the omission of a reference to the honoured name of Dr Stewart. I fully intended to have given him his place among the eminent ministers of Ross-shire, though the memoir of his life and labours which has been published, made any attempt to describe him by me unnecessary. The oversight was certainly not due to any want of veneration for the memory of one, than whom there were few men more amiable, few Christians more humble and holy, few preachers more faithful, and few pastors more watchful and wise.

If I had not the hope, that none would be disposed