

In 1793 he was matriculated at King's College, Old Aberdeen, in which he subsequently took the degree of A.M. Shortly after this he removed to the neighbourhood of St. Andrews, at which University he attended lectures on Divinity, for although attached to the Episcopal Church, he was compelled to avail himself of the existing public schools and Colleges of the country, as the Nonjurors at that time possessed no means of educating their youth.

At St. Andrews, he formed several important and lasting friendships, among others, with Thomas Duncan LL.D., still Professor of Mathematics, and one of the profoundest mathematicians in Europe: a friendship which continues to this day with unabated affection. So also with the late Dr. Chalmers, which only terminated with the life of that great and universally esteemed philosopher and divine.

In 1797, Mr. Strachan left St. Andrews, and established himself in the village of Kettle; and here, at the early age of nineteen, he made his first essay in the great field of educational labour, commencing life with a deeply rooted love for the cause, and with a foretaste of that success which has since crowned his efforts. It was his practice to study well and note the character and capacity of his pupils, and to his discrimination and correct judgment, many owe the ultimate renown they have achieved. Among his pupils at that time was David Wilkie, since so well known as one of the first painters of the age. Mr. Strachan quickly perceived Wilkie's unquestionable genius, and with some difficulty prevailed on his uncle to send him to the celebrated Raeburn, then enjoying the highest reputation in Scotland. It is pleasing to remark, that after an interval of