

ordinary beggar-like attire, was alarmed to see the carriage of "my lord," the patron of the parish, driving towards the manse. Too late to escape, the "canny minister" pulled his hat over his face, struck a rigid attitude with outstretched arms, and looked the *beau ideal* of a "scare-crow," or "potato bogle," till the carriage passed, then rushed to the manse by the back door and donned his Sunday coat to receive his guests.

Mr. Guthrie established Sabbath schools, cottage prayer-meetings, a parish library, a savings' bank, and Bible classes, and carefully prepared his sermons, acquiring that wonderful mastery of simple Saxon and happy illustration, that has carried his writings to the ends of the earth—to the Indian bungalow, the Australian shepherd's hut, and the log-cabins of the Canadian backwoods.

His commanding talents at length procured a call to Greyfriars Church, Edinburgh. He would not accept it till satisfied as to the evangelical character of his successor at Arbriot. He plunged into zealous parish work in the crowded wynds of the ancient city. Rising at five o'clock, he worked at his desk till nine and spent much of the day in exploring the densely packed and fever-smitten tenement-houses of the Cowgate and Cannongate. During seven years of labour among the lapsed and lowest classes, where typhus fever always slumbered and sometimes raged, he seemed to bear a charmed life. He attributed his immunity to his always occupying a position between the open door and the patient, the disease germs being thus conveyed from him towards the fireplace. While trusting Providence, he used his common sense.

But it was not disease or death, but the starvation, the drunkenness, the rags, the heartless, hopeless wretchedness, both bodily and spiritual, of the people that wrung his soul. Hence he threw himself earnestly into the effort to establish Ragged Schools, and into the Temperance and National Education Reform. His "Plea for Ragged Schools," his first publication, a sixpenny pamphlet, in a few days brought him £700 for the philanthropic object on behalf of which it was written. "The City, its Sins and Sorrows," soon reached a sale of fifty thousand copies, and most powerfully touched the popular conscience.