

very reserved, even with his most intimate friends. It is, however, probable that—in common with hundreds more, some scattered over the world as missionaries and ministers of the gospel, and some like himself, already gone to their rest,—he was roused to religious enquiry and quickened into spiritual life amid the awakening that ushered in, and followed the disruption, in 1843, of the Scottish National Church. In 1846, three years thereafter, we find him, in a paper formally drawn out and duly signed after the fashion recommended by old Divines, solemnly renouncing the world and its ways, and consecrating himself to God. Having thus found the Pearl of great price,—the greatest to the human heart of all discoveries,—he began to yearn after the inestimable privilege of bringing others to the possession of the same wealth. With a view, therefore, to the Christian Ministry in connection with the Free Church of Scotland, he began, in that same year the study of Latin. Toiling hard through the day he gave his evenings, very late into the night, to the work of preparing himself for College.

II.—HIS STUDENT LIFE.

With what knowledge of Latin, Greek, and Mathematics, he could thus acquire after his day's labour as a working gardener was over, he set his face towards Edinburgh University. The conduct of many Scotch Students in struggling through poverty, and deficient early training towards a University Degree and an honourable place in some one of the learned professions, is worthy of admiration. The privations then endured and the habits of intense study then formed conduce largely to future success in life, as the history of many eminent men abundantly testifies. It was amid trials of no ordinary kind Mr. McDowall carried on his studies. This is apparent from the following letter addressed by him just before entering on his College Course to Mr. McDougall now Professor of Moral Philosophy in Edinburgh University:—

"From nine years of age till the beginning of March 1848 I have been without intermission engaged in manual labour. For two years after I began to labour I attended during the winter evenings an evening school where I was taught writing and arithmetic. But engaging myself to a farmer I soon forgot all I had previously learned. After two years service in the country, I engaged as an apprentice gardener, when my spare time was wholly taken up in acquiring a knowledge of the business. I entered the garden of Mr. Stirling of Keir where I commenced in 1846 the study of the Latin language, and in the following year Greek and Geometry. The only assistance I received in these was from Mr. Stewart, Bridge of Allan, whom I met by accident, and who kindly invited me to his house after my labour was over, and gave me help. On my leaving Keir for Fife-shire, he introduced me to the Rev. Mr. Brodie of Monimail, who gave me much assistance, and through whose kindness and means I was enabled to enter the Normal School."

During eight years,—his term of study at the University and Divinity Hall,—he "toiled hard through the hours of the sad midnight watch, wringing but a slight sleep out of his couch" so that he