

In December, 1833, he was licensed to preach the gospel by the Presbytery of Dunfermline. While supplying a station at Greenwich (London) to which he had been sent, for three months, he received a call from the congregation of Whithorn, Wigtownshire, which he accepted; and in February 1835 he was ordained by the United Associate Presbytery of Wigtown, to the pastoral charge of that congregation. In the following April he was united in marriage to Miss Christian Monro, daughter of the late Mr. Monro, Shipowner, Limekilns, by whom he had a family of five sons and two daughters. Of this union we may be allowed to say, without intruding unduly into the hallowed shrine of domestic life, that it was a singularly happy one, and that it connected him with a partner whose kindness of heart, piety and prudence, and devotedness to those duties which lie within the sphere of a minister's wife, rendered her in the highest sense, a help meet for him. May He who is the Judge of the widow, in His holy habitation, comfort and sustain her!

Mr. Gibson's short ministry of about six years in Whithorn was one of the happiest portions of his life. He loved his people, and was beloved by them in return. But on his receiving a call to a vacant charge in Dunfermline (the Maygate congregation) he was induced to accept it on account of the prospect of more extensive usefulness, which he supposed would be opened up to him in that town—as well as the superior facilities which it offered for the education of his young and increasing family; and also on account of its close proximity to Limekilns, where many dear connections were resident. Keenly feeling his separation from the people at Whithorn, he was inducted to his new charge on the 20th January 1841. The congregation at Dunfermline was small; and when the Union took place between the United Secession and Relief Churches, it was thought advisable that it should be merged in another of the congregations of that town—that namely, of which Professor Macmichael was the pastor. By this step it was considered that the evil of multiplying unduly the struggling and feeble congregations of the same denomination in one place would be obviated, and an illustration would be given of the practical advantages connected with an incorporating union of these two great ecclesiastical bodies. To accomplish this measure one of the pastors must retire; for the Church formed by the amalgamation of the two separate congregations, would not be numerous enough to maintain or require a co-pastorate. With manly generosity Mr. Gibson signified his readiness, for the sake of the "*Majus bonum Ecclesie*" to withdraw from the field; and he did so—braving the risks of a return to the position of a minister without a charge—but bearing along with him the respect and love of his former flock and co-presbyters, and the commendations of a much wider circle. His self-denial was not unappreciated; and his pulpit gifts were such as speedily to secure for him an invitation to another field of labour; and one more extensive than that which he had left.

His charge at Dunfermline was demitted in June, 1847; and he was inducted as Minister of the High Street United Presbyterian Congrega-