

---

One wondrous wise, a wondrous fool may be;  
And one a fool, yet wondrous wise is he.  
That here on earth they worthy gain or lose,  
None more than Scots could worldly wisdom use;  
And much of this, as garnered by the race,  
In every land doth find proverbial place.  
Now held in mind, or stored in records old,  
In outward ways they help our lives to mold,  
Yet chiefly found to bless our human kind  
In works of him who had the wisest mind.  
As earthly guides with ease they pass the lore  
Of all you find in other's garnered store;  
The reason why their light o'er others shine,  
They ever rest on that which is divine.  
A goodly heed to these, the Scots they gave,  
And much of ill thereby the nation save;  
Yet nearer still than proverbs terse and wise,—  
Though all approved by voices from the skies,—  
To things above our fathers brought the schools,  
That springs of action more than wisdom's rules  
Should lives control and still in strength prevail  
When other helps, however good, might fail.  
The Bible, there an honored place it found;  
The master read and rev'ence reigned around.  
It helped the day, as o'er the school it ran,  
To mold for good the life of every one;  
Our threefold life,—the mind and heart and  
will,—  
Its vital air with health doth all instill,