

of God "whom to know is eternal life." The rest will come when he is ripe for it. Wherever there is genius it will burst forth like the sun-beam and meet with due encouragement in the Parish School.

While some of them may do no more than impart the simplest elements of a good education, there are others that, in point of efficiency, as well as the variety of the branches taught, are not inferior to the highest Educational Institutes of other lands; while all of them give that education that is fitted to prepare Scotchmen for filling every office—for what office do they not fill—with credit to themselves and honour to their country. From straw thatched cottages, statesmen, historians, poets, philosophers, painters and warriors have gone forth, who have had their habits of thought and action formed within these schools, to dazzle the world with their genius, and command admiration by their nicely balanced intellect. A distinguishing characteristic of these Schools is the happily blended and balanced elements of education. The religious, the moral, the intellectual faculties are all duly developed, none of them cultivated at the expense of the others. From other schools, more profound scholars may have gone forth, but nowhere has the mass of population gone forth, with that amount of information, and that sagacity, to work up, by self tuition, that information for the real practical business of life. These schools are peculiarly the schools of the people. Within the reach of all, meeting general wants, yet adapted to individual requirements, they belong to all classes and conditions of society. Men, we repeat it, have been trained in these schools, who have taken their stations in the highest ranks of literature and science; but had the masses gone forth polished and bedizened, with the glaring acquisitions of "polite literature," they would have been unfitted for the business of common life. They might have been profound philosophers, or accomplished scholars, but they would not have been, what in my opinion, is far better—Scotchmen*; well informed, shrewd, self-reliant men, prepared to

* In the course of readings, I met with an anecdote, but where, my memory fails me at present to point out, or name the persons to whom it relates; it was to this effect: A Minister of State, said to one, to whom he owed a political obligation, "What can I do for you?" The other replied, "Nothing." "What! Nothing?" "No. You cannot make me a Scotchman! These men fill every office of emolument and trust, with credit to themselves and benefit to others; but, the best of it is, they are dependent on no one, they are indebted to themselves alone." This, as I look upon it, is a compliment indirectly paid to the self-reliant training of the Parish School, and that indomitable perseverance, characteristic of Scotchmen, which makes everything bend to the higher aims of a rightly directed mind.