

fore becomes me daily to watch, and so much the more as I see the day approaching.

"I am glad to hear of your and William's, as also of Robert's, zeal and diligence in discharging the duties of your high calling. For your encouragement I shall transcribe a note from the Rev. Basil Wood. His eleventh sermon, May, 1807 :—'The zealous missionary shall shine to eternity, enrolled in the ancestry of Heaven. Continue therefore steadfast,' &c.

"I rejoice to hear of the happy deaths you mention. May they be more and more increased !

"Robert was assisting here last week at the sacrament. He preached both on Sabbath night and Monday. He left us on Thursday, went to Cathlaw, all night, and next day took the stage from Bathgate. George passed examination before the Presbytery two weeks ago, and will soon follow you to the pulpit, an uncommon instance. May the Lord preserve me humble ! And I am, with best respects to your and William's good wives,

"Yours affectionately,

"JOHN BURNS."

The reference to Kinneil, with which early associations were linked, sets memory at work, and, after a fashion peculiarly his own, he groups diverse historical connexions. The thread of his narrative is dropped here (as elsewhere when it pleases him), that he may expatiate over congenial fields which the old Manor opens up.

Kinneil House, once the favourite residence of the Ducal family of Hamilton, has been associated almost within my own remembrance, with the progress of science and of mechanical art, for there dwelt Dr. Roebuck, the originator of the famed Carron iron works, and the patron of James Watt, in his first efforts in the improvement of the steam engine. Soon after my ordination, when on my way from Falkirk to Boness, I had the curiosity to do what I had not done when a boy ; I climbed up by a by-path to one of the olden appendages of the Mansion, into which I succeeded in making my entrée, and there gazed upon the blackened and wasted *exuviae* of the mechanical processes of the ingenious inventor, in this the humble