

This friendship, after the separation of distance, was "kept alive by a constant correspondence during more than sixty years." After leaving St. Andrew's, the family "bread-winner" applied for the appointment of master of the parochial school of Kettle, in Fifeshire. There were 49 candidates, and he was successful. At the age of nineteen he began the actual battle of life. He began, as he stated in a charge to the Clergy of the Diocese of Toronto, in 1860, "with something of a foreknowledge of that success which afterwards crowned his efforts." In the charge alluded to, the Bishop gave a brief sketch of the early part of his career, and to it I am indebted for some of the facts mentioned in this article. Among his pupils at that time, was one David Wilkie, now well-known wherever painting is known. It seems that we owe the possession of Wilkie as a painter, to the discernment and interest of the young school-master of Kettle. He soon perceived Wilkie's genius, in youthful efforts—it may be supposed—upon the slate; his pencil, while it should have traced figures of a mathematical nature, perversely drawing landscapes and portraits, and perhaps caricatures. Wilkie was the ward of an uncle, and the generous master with difficulty induced his guardian to send him as a pupil to the celebrated Raeburn. While at St. Andrew's Mr. Strachan had attracted the favourable regard of Professor Brown, who being shortly after appointed to the Chair of Natural Philosophy in the University of Glasgow, proposed to him that he should "become his attending assistant in the lecture room." This plan was never carried out, although it would appear that the mastership of the school at Kettle was resigned in expectation of it. Dr. Brown was induced to retire on a pension; and the life and energy of the future prelate were diverted to their destined channel.

Governor Simcoe had proposed the establishment of a number of Grammar Schools, with a University as the caping stone of the educational system of Canada. He commissioned the Hon. Robert Hamilton and the Hon. Richard Cartwright "to procure a gentleman from Scotland to organize and take charge of such College or University." The appointment was first offered to Mr. Duncan, afterwards Professor of Mathematics at St. Andrew's, and when declined by him, to Mr. Chalmers. He too, declined it, and then it was offered to the last of the three friends. Mr. Strachan was by no means eager to accept the appointment, for, in those days, such an acceptance was, in effect, passing upon oneself a sentence of modified banishment; and it was also the relinquishment of every hope of advancement at home. He was, however, at the time, still suffering from the disappointment caused by the resignation of Dr. Brown, and his ambition was possibly modified by his disappointment. At any rate