

the Rev. Mr. Barlas was ordained minister of Crieff and Comrie, preaching one fourth of his time at Comrie and three-fourths of his time at Crieff; and in his old age he had the pleasure of enjoying the services of a pastor in Comrie, the late Rev. Samuel Gilfillan, who was ordained there in 1791.

The following notice of his life and character are principally from Mr. Gilfillan's sketch. He was a person of great integrity of mind and primitive simplicity of manners. His name among some ministers of his acquaintance was Nathaniel. He was much given to the exercise of prayer. "The woods on the side of Loch Earne, if they could speak, would testify how often he wrestled with God for his church, and especially for this benighted part of the country." The late Dr. Jarment of London, visiting Comrie, requested a grand-daughter to take him to the house where James lived. She did so. Only two stones were left. He sat down on one of them, and gave expression to his thoughts in the remark, "If these stones could speak, how many prayers could they tell of, that had been put up within those walls by that good old man!"

He was remarkable for his reverence for the Sabbath. On that day he had family worship three times. On going and returning from church he was always engaged in religious conversation, and was disliked by many on that account. Not unfrequently it might be heard said, "Here comes that great Seceder, we canna get a word said." His warnings to the young also were faithful and affectionate. "Children," he would say, "attend the Kirk when ye're young. I found it easier to go to Kinkell when I was young, than I do now to go to Comrie."

He was however particularly distinguished by his earnest desire for the spreading of the gospel, and, though occupying an humble sphere, he showed it by his personal exertions for the conversion of those around him. Many a dark night did he travel round the country with practical books, in order to read them to those who were careless and ignorant, and leaving them with them that they might peruse them at their leisure.