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MEMOIR OF THE LATE REV. GEORGE BARCLAY, OF IRVINE, SCOTLAND.

BY THE REV. JOHN LEECHMAN, A. M.

GEORGE BARCLAY was born in Dalwinning, a small village in Ayrshire, on the 12th of March, 1774. His parents moved in humble life, but appear to have given pleasing evidence of piety. They belonged to the class of original seceders from the Scottish kirk, called Antiburghers, and were the disciples of the Rev. Mr. Jamieson, Mrs. Barclay's only brother, being the minister of the congregation where they regularly worshipped. George was the only child of his mother, who died when he was only seven months old. The reports respecting this excellent person are very gratifying. He was of an amiable disposition, dignified in her manners, kind to the poor, and her death was much lamented.

After his mother's death he became the special object of his father's care and affection. He could read the Bible when four years of age; he regularly attended to the form of secret prayer; and often had his natural affections excited, even to tears, in attending the sacramental services of the church; and in reading narratives of the pious dead. At this time, however, the fear of God was

not before his eyes. Those evils which prove us to be "transgressors from the womb" began to bud, and blossom, and bring forth fruit, even at that early age; and soon it became evident that he had entered the wide gate, and was treading the broad road that leadeth to destruction.

When about six years of age his father married a second time. He was much beloved by his step-mother, both before and after she had children of her own. Twice, about this period, his life was in imminent danger, and on each of these occasions he had but a hair-breadth escape from sudden death. At school he did not make any great proficiency; but this appears to have arisen more from the carelessness of the master, and the mode of tuition then prevalent, than from any want of ability in him. Being of a lively disposition, he was generally the first in youthful frolics. But, as he never rebelled against parental authority, and as he enjoyed the reputation of being a good and an amiable boy, we have no reason to believe that his youthful follies were very serious, although he himself was accustomed to speak of them