

which I have seen approached in two other friends only, both now taken from us, and both marked, like him, more by promise than performance—Richard Shute, and George Romanes. He loved to follow out a subject to its minutest ends; to refine and refine again; to look at it all round till it grew elusive. The strongest intellectual influence brought to bear upon him at this time, however, was that of Professor Bain, who must have done much to correct this native tendency, and to encourage the sounder and more practical judgment, which at all times fought for mastery in him with the metaphysical Scotch temperament.

After taking his degree, he went for a while to Dunkirk, as tutor to a Scotch family residing there. This gave him an opportunity of acquiring a good knowledge of French, and also of seeing not a little of Belgium, of whose old towns and Flemish art he often spoke with great affection. At twenty-two or twenty-three he returned to Aberdeen and began to teach in the Grammar School. Perhaps this discipline contributed to form in him that deliberately just, that studiously fair habit of mind for which he was afterwards conspicuous. All who