

mother was daughter of President Dundas, and thus connected with Lord Melville and many distinguished Scotch families. He was born in 1775, and passed through a long life of varied trials. He sailed from England in May, 1795, in the Winterton East Indiaman, commanded by Captain Dundas, of Dundas, and, in August of the same year, was shipwrecked on the coast of Madagascar; and, though a delicate youth, he survived, while numerous strong men sunk to rise no more. During his residence of about twenty years in India, he was exposed to dangers in many varied shapes, which he has succinctly alluded to in a short work entitled "Practical Illustrations of a Particular Providence," in which he details his wonderful preservation in a second shipwreck, and his equally wonderful escape from being murdered by the Malays in another vessel. From his talents and connections, Mr. Buchan speedily rose to high office in India, and was appointed Secretary to the Government at Madras; but circumstances requiring his return home, he was, about 1809, most anxious to revisit his native land. He had taken passage in a favorite ship, the *Lady Jane Dundas*, but political events forced him to remain in India. He states how deep were his feelings, when, from the fortifications of Madras, he beheld the fleet getting weigh in a beautifully serene evening; but only the wreck of that fleet ever reached England; and the *Lady Jane Dundas*, in which his passage was engaged, was never heard of, nor her fate known. Another circumstance nearly as remarkable, and which is narrated by himself, occurred in connection with his return home. From the state of political matters at Madras at that period, it was deemed necessary, about a month after the fleet sailed, to send a confidential public servant home, and Mr. Buchan being selected for that employment, a fast-sailing packet was appointed for him, and his expenses paid, by which he reached England in safety at the same period as the shattered remains of the fleet in which he should have sailed, and without encountering any storms. On returning to Scotland, he was brought into contact with his relative, Mr. Robert Cathcart, of Drum, W.S., whose great object was to lead all around him to embrace true and earnest views of religion. In this he was, as regards Mr. Buchan, as well as with many others, successful; and though Mr. Cathcart was shortly after called to his reward, his admirer and pupil, Mr. Buchan, was long spared for very extensive usefulness, and to be, in his turn, the means of leading many to the true knowledge of a crucified Redeemer. From 1813 Mr. Buchan's life was chiefly spent on his estate in Berwicksire, actively engaged in public business, and in doing good to all around him; but, though apparently removed from danger, he met with more appalling accidents than those who seemed to be constantly exposed to great perils. In 1815, while with some friends at Chepstow, he was crossing the Wye in a crowded boat in the evening; and, through the negligence and drunkenness of the boat-men they were carried with great rapidity through the narrow aperture of the bridge, then under repair, and only saved from destruction by the presence of mind of Mr. Buchan, in calling on all to sit down before the boat struck the pier of the bridge. About twenty years ago, on one occasion, while visiting a neighbour in Berwickshire, he went in to examine an ice-house which was at the time being filled, and, not observing the pit, he was precipitated headlong to the bottom; and the next cart-load of ice, which would soon have approached, must have inevitably covered him with its heavy masses; but a labourer working near the spot observed him enter, and not seeing him return, soon learnt the cause, and had him brought out before another load of ice was thrown in. The severe dislocation by this accident occasioned lameness for life. A few years afterwards, while riding to church, he was thrown from his horse, and sustained very severe injuries. Only last year, while again riding in his own park, his horse took fright from some cause, and, running off, Mr. Buchan was precipitated to the ground, and had his leg broken at the hip-joint; but from this also he seemed to have recovered, and to have almost regained his wonted health. For many years he also took a considerable part in the deliberations of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. At the Disruption he cast in his lot with the Free Church. On the Sabbath evenings, after instructing his class of pupils, he would deliver to his assembled household an unwritten discourse. His last illness only endured about a week; bronchitis having taken possession of the lungs. He prayed almost without ceasing during the last four days and nights, for himself and others.—*Christian Times*