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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE LATE REV. JAMES GIBSON OF OWEN SOUND.*

Mr. Gibson was born at Glasgow on the 27th of June, 1812, and was baptized on the 16th of the following month. He was a feeble infant, and continued delicate during the years of early childhood. Notwithstanding the weakness of his frame at that period, he discovered great quickness in learning, and was able to read with fluency at an unusually early age. The biographies of the Bible excited the interest of his infantine mind; and it was his admiration of the character of the youthful Samuel as he ministered to the Lord, and attended on Eli in the tabernacle at Shiloh, that inspired him, while yet a mere boy, with the wish and purpose to dedicate himself to the service of God in the christian ministry. In the absence of his private papers, no account can be given by the writer, of his early religious experience; and perhaps it is questionable whether access to the records which he may have left behind him of his mental and religious history, would have enabled us definitely to trace the process by which he became a subject of divine grace. He was carefully instructed and trained, in the midst of the influences of a christian family; and what our blessed Lord said to Nicodemus seems to be true of him—"The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof *but canst not tell whence it cometh or whither it goeth*; so is every one that is born of the Spirit." His relations cannot recall the time, even in his youth, when it could have been said of him that his conduct was otherwise than consistent with piety. It is especially remembered that divine things much occupied and deeply impressed him at the time when he joined the fellowship of the Church, which he did under the ministry of Dr. Kidston and Mr. Brash, and also when he entered the Theological Hall. Often, when no human eye saw him, and

* The author of this sketch is a U. P. Minister in Scotland.—Ed.