

through life the part both of a consistent Christian and a firm Seceder.

Soon after this period he returned to his native parish and settled at what was then called Portmore, but where now stands the village of St. Fillans, just at the foot of Loch Earne in the parish of Comrie, and county of Perthshire. He had left home for the purpose of seeking the improvement of his worldly circumstances. He returned with a treasure more valuable than the gold of Ophir or the gems of Golconda. As the woman of Samaria went to tell to those of her own city of the Saviour she had found, he returned to his native parish to communicate to others the knowledge of that salvation, which he had received during his absence. And as "Andrew first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is being interpreted, the Christ, and he brought him to Jesus," and as Philip found his friend Nathaniel, so his first efforts were among his relatives and friends, to bring them to Jesus. And his efforts were not in vain. "When he returned to the Highlands," says Mr. Gilfillan, "he endeavoured to communicate the good news among his relations and neighbours, and his endeavours were not without some success. A few came forth to the help of the Lord, and a seed was sown which shall not be destroyed, we trust, for ages to come." Whether he was the first to introduce the Secession into the parish of Comrie, we are uncertain; but we know that he was among the first, and we are assured that he was the first in that quarter of the parish in which he resided. His brothers and friends through his influence became Seceders, which in many parts of Scotland at that time was synonymous with being serious Christians. His brothers were indeed pious men, and it is believed that they became so through his instrumentality.

From the origin of the Secession there had been in Comrie, as in many of the parishes in Scotland, a praying society, and out of this, as in many other instances, sprung the Secession Congregation of that place. The members were found travel-