

more immediately concerned was born in London, on the 20th of July, 1811. Being a second son, and having no expectation of succeeding to the title and estates, he was from an early age taught to regard himself as one who must largely depend upon himself for his future position in life. As a boy he spent some time at Eton, whence he passed to Christ Church, Oxford, where he won a well-deserved reputation for diligence, and was accredited with the possession of a shrewdness and native sagacity beyond his years. During his University career he had for his friends and contemporaries many young men who afterwards became eminent in political and professional life. Among the number were William Ewart Gladstone, Roundell Palmer (now Lord Selborne), James Ramsey (afterwards Lord Dalhousie), Sidney Herbert (afterwards Lord Herbert of Lea), Robert Lowe (now Lord Sherbrooke), and the young gentleman who subsequently became Duke of Newcastle, and who at a much more mature phase of his existence accompanied the Prince of Wales to Canada as his friend and guardian in 1860. It was something to shine in such a galaxy, and young James Bruce fully held his own with the brightest of his compeers at the Union debating club.

"Illness, induced by over-study, prevented him from competing for double honours, but he obtained a first-class in classics at the Michaelmas Examination of 1832, and was currently spoken of as 'The best first of his year.' He was soon after elected to a fellowship of Merton College. In June, 1835, he entered himself as a student at Lincoln's Inn, but does not seem to have had any serious idea of devoting himself to the legal profession. He gave much attention to politics, and published one or two pamphlets on important public questions. In 1837 he was an unsuccessful candidate for the representation of Fifeshire in the House of Commons. He had made very insufficient preparation for his candidature, which was suddenly determined upon in consequence of an unexpected vacancy in the representation of the Shire, combined with the injudicious importunities of some of his friends. As a consequence he was defeated by a large majority. He made no further attempt to obtain a seat in Parliament until 1841, when he was returned in the Conservative interest for the Borough of Southampton.

"In April of the previous year he had married Elizabeth Mary, daughter of Mr. C. L. Cumming Bruce, of Roseisle. Accom-