

ings regularly at which discourses were delivered, by the members, as they were appointed, and questions in theology discussed.

During the whole course of his studies, he remained steadfast in his resolution to labour as a missionary in America. Among the students at the hall, there was at that time much of a missionary spirit, and the western continent was the point to which their thoughts were generally directed. Among those who were Mr. Gordon's companions at the hall, who afterward came to America may be mentioned, the late Rev. Robert Bruce, of Pittsburg, Pa., the late Dr. Keir, who as a student was two years his junior, the late Dr. Alexander Bullions, of Cambridge, N. Y., who obtained a high reputation both as a preacher and a teacher in the United States, and whose school books are now used as standard works in many educational institutions not only in that country, but in other lands, and the late Dr. Brownlee, long known as an able minister in New York, and who occupied so distinguished a position in the Romish controversy in the United States. A few extracts from their correspondence about the time of Mr. Gordon's leaving, will show the missionary spirit prevalent among them, and the esteem in which he was held by his associates.

On the 10th December, 1804, Mr. D. Inglis writes to him as follows:

"In your letter you say that yourself with Messrs. Cairns, Thomson and Stewart were separately interrogated about undertaking a mission to America, and that none of them inclined to go except yourself. You solicit my advice about this important matter. Indeed my dear friend I am totally at a loss what advice to give. I feel very much for you in your present situation, and hope that you will be wisely directed by the great ruler of all events. When I consult my own feelings I could fondly wish to see you another year at Whitburn, but should be sorry to have you contrary to what is duty. You said that if I would consent to go you would willingly embark with me. I am very happy that I have such an affectionate friend as Mr. Gordon, and have no doubt of the sincerity of your attachment, and there is none with whom I would undertake a mission with greater cheerfulness."

On the 28th December, 1805, Mr. Bullions thus writes: "About fourteen days posterior to that event (an ordination to which he referred) according to injunction we compared before an interim meeting of Presbytery convened, almost designed for our examination. After asking us some thing relative to our sentiments about the American Mission, without receiving much satisfaction, they proceeded to try our theological and practical knowledge of divinity. Though they did not in either of these departments, especially the latter, find us wonderfully accurate, they assigned Bruce for homily, Rom. vi. 14 first clause, me the last; Bruce for exercise so Eph. i. 14, and me the two following verses. We have prepared them all, but intend only, though otherwise enjoined, to deliver our homilies at first Presbytery. This is Tuesday first. The Presbytery expect, and we gave them ground to do so, that if ever we got license we are instantly thereupon to give our final decision respecting America. I hope this will be what you expected. Though I find my mother greatly averse to my departure from Scotland, I hope this will not have influence sufficient to deter me from the noble and worthy enterprise. \* \* Bruce will also meet with parental opposition, but I trust that he will never cowardly abandon the American cause. Yesterday I had a letter from Mr. James Inglis. He is well. He sent me some news respecting America. They are extracts from letters. The amount of them is that dangers and difficulties are to be expected there by preachers—that great licentiousness pervades