

tion of spirit were themselves entailed upon this, as well as upon all other things that the children of Adam busied themselves about. I resolved, therefore, to betako myself for the future to the study of the Sacred Volume alone, as my main business, and to make no other use of other books than as they might become subservient to me in the understanding and improvement of the same. For I may say truly, with David, that I easily see the end of human perfection, but that the law of God was exceeding broad, as appearing still greater and greater the more it was searched into and understood."

After Fleming had thus studied and investigated, and finally returned exclusively to the Source of all light and charity, he was privately ordained in Rotterdam, but without being set apart over any particular charge, in 1688, by several ministers of the Church of Scotland, at that time refugees in Holland. He soon after repaired to England as domestic chaplain to a private family, where he remained about four years, still cultivating assiduously his theological studies; and there, also he published several poetical productions, which have shared the fate of many of their contemporaries, being now rarely found, or seldom or never adverted to. At length, on having once more visited Holland, he received, in 1692, an invitation from the English Presbyterian Church at Leyden, to become their minister; with which he complied. Here he became so highly endeared to his people, that when, in consequence of the death of his excellent father in 1694, he was invited by the Presbyterian Church at Rotterdam to succeed their deceased pastor, his own congregation earnestly deprecated his removal. Much and earnest remonstrance between the two churches was the consequence, so that he was not admitted to the charge at Rotterdam until the commencement of the following year. To console his afflicted flock at Leyden, he promised to them, at his departure, to return and preach frequently among them, and also to dispense the sacrament to them every quarter—a promise which he sacredly fulfilled, until the settlement of a regular minister there made his further labours unnecessary.

It might have been expected that a translation effected with so much difficulty and reluctance would have precluded the pain of a second, and that Fleming would have been suffered to remain in the highly important charge which he held at Rotterdam; but such did not long continue to be the case. He had been little more than three years in that place, during which the congregation had greatly increased, and their means of comfort and respectability been greatly augmented,

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