

was solemn. It is a serious thing to have the charge of immortal souls. The Christian Ministry is a work of solemn responsibility. May God enable me to be diligent and faithful." Such feelings and reflections were most suitable and of happy augury in his circumstances. He had not rushed into the sacred office for selfish ends; and he looked to other wisdom for guidance, and leant on other strength than his own in the discharge of his ministerial duties. His trust was not disappointed nor his prayer unanswered. For nearly fifteen years he laboured with much acceptance and it is hoped with no little success among the people at Newarthill. In September following his ordination he was united in marriage to Miss Muckersie, daughter of the Rev. James Muckersie, of Alloa, a lady every way worthy to be the wife of such an excellent and amiable man. And a happier union we believe there could not be. Mrs. Ferrier, who survives to lament her loss, was well fitted by energy of character and strength of mind, not only to guide his household and worldly affairs, but to afford him counsel in difficulty and support under discouragement. And ministers, of all men, need counsel in which they can trust, and that heart sustentation which none can so well supply as an affectionate and judicious wife. In this respect Dr. Ferrier "obtained favor of the Lord."

In the year 1833, a large number of the Congregation of Newarthill having removed to the neighbourhood of Airdrie, in consequence of the failure of a public work with which they were connected, Dr. Ferrier and 75 members applied to the Presbytery of Glasgow for liberty to form a second congregation in the town of Airdrie. The request was granted, and a church built. So well did the new congregation prosper that in three years the number of members had increased to 320. But the sun of prosperity which shone so brightly for a time began to be clouded. One of those periodical stagnations of trade occurred, and threw many of the people out of employment. And the voluntary controversy was surging over Scotland and stirring up the dirt that ever lodges in the minds of the delinquent and ecclesiastically dominant. Though emphatically a man of peace, heartily hating strife and struggle, yet as an enlightened and conscientious voluntary, convinced to assurance, that the question involved the honor of Christ and the claims of common justice, Dr. Ferrier was of necessity led to take part in the controversy which agitated the country, and engaged all its more vigorous and earnest minds. And this he did from the pulpit and the press, with marked credit to himself and advantage to the good cause which has been slowly but surely winning its victories from that day till now, and which we cannot doubt will go on adding conquest to conquest till no section of the professed Church of Christ shall be cramped and cursed by state patronage and pay. The compulsories at Airdrie (as it has been and will be everywhere) having but few and feeble arguments to put forth in favor of Church, and State connection, and smarting under the