

shall only say, in the words of Cowper, applicable equally to the Divine dealings with individual minds as with the larger economy of the universe,

"God moves in a mysterious way,
His wonders to perform."

It is not easy always to account for the inclinations and tendencies that run in families, and determine the future of its several members. None of my forefathers, on either side, occupied the office of the ministry. And yet among the male members of our family there did appear at early periods, and in pretty regular succession, a somewhat uncommonly strong leaning towards the ministerial profession, showing itself in a singular love of pulpit occupancy, and somewhat premature pulpit oratory. My eldest brother, James, who was minister of the first charge in the parish of Brechin for nearly forty years, took a fancy, when about thirteen years of age, to devote all the little pocket money he had picked up, to the purchase of a wooden pulpit, in the ordinary sense of the word ; and my second brother, William, afterwards well-known as "the pastor of Kilsyth," a short time thereafter completed the ecclesiastical erection by the addition of a precentor's desk. A small room in the house was allotted to its reception, and it henceforth had affixed to it the name of "*The Kirk*." The domestic worship was pretty regularly performed, and occasionally more full religious services engaged in. At a somewhat later period, a summer-house in the garden was set apart for the same purpose, and in it the more juvenile attempts at preaching were carried on. These attempts were indeed juvenile, but they were always serious. We were not "playing at preacher." We were really in earnest, and much precious truth from the pages of approved authors was exhibited ; and it is interesting to state that sometimes the humblest efforts in the service of God, may be honoured with a measure of success.

I have just had put into my hands an interesting little memoir of a departed female member of his congregation,