

a mind of peculiar moderation and benevolence, which his early and unfettered study of the Gospel, and a liberal course of reading, after he had taken his degree, tended to ripen and improve; and having afterwards spent many years in travelling through France, and various parts of the Continent (an advantage which he declared was not to be understood without trial of it); and having examined besides, under various aspects, the different forms of ecclesiastical discipline in use; he entered at last upon the ministry at Newbottle, under the auspices of the national church, in 1641, at the mature age of thirty, without, as it should seem, any strong prejudices in favour of any particular regimen, but with high qualifications as a divine, and a strong desire and determination to do his duty as a faithful minister of the Gospel.

It was soon evident, however, that such qualifications and dispositions, however excellent and amiable, were not suited to the times, and least of all to the country in which he officiated; and accordingly we find, that, notwithstanding his exemplary conduct and character, he was publicly reprimanded at a provincial synod for not preaching up the times, and when, in answer to his inquiry, Who did preach up the times? he was told that all his brethren did it, he replied with his characteristic naïveté, "Then if all of you preach up the times, you may surely allow one poor brother to preach up Christ Jesus and eternity." It was probably owing to a continuance of this species of persecution, not less than to his intimacy with Burnet at this period, that his disposition in favour of a moderate episcopacy began. However this may be, it appears that in 1652, after eleven years of close residence on his cure, he gave in formally his resignation of it to the presbytery, which after a year's consideration was accepted.

His talents, however, were not suffered to remain long in obscurity, for in 1653, on the death of Principal Adamson, and when the election of Mr. Colville had been set aside by the manœuvres of the Protector, he was appointed principal of the University of Edinburgh, in which capacity he delivered to the academic youth his Latin prelections and exhortations, which were received by a crowded and admiring audience at the time, and now constitute, even in translation, an interesting and instructive portion of his works. In this situation he remained with great increase of his own reputation, and to the credit and advantage of the College, till 1661, when in consequence of the Restoration, and of the new measures to which it led, he was unexpectedly called to the bench of Bishops by Charles II., and was replaced in his office of Principal by the same Mr. Colville whom he had superseded ten years before.

This was the most important and trying æra of his life, and seems to have been a source of great trouble and anxiety to him. Although he had for some time adopted opinions unfavourable to the Calvinistic regimen, and had given an unquestionable proof of his