

and Calvinism of his fathers. He was indeed living in an atmosphere of moderatism, and his biographer remarks "it was not unnatural that recoiling from the unelastic political principles of Anstruther, and unfortified by a strong individual faith in the Christian Salvation, his youthful spirit should have kindled into generous emotion at the glowing prospects which they cherished as to the future progress of our species springing out of political emancipation; and that he should have admitted the idea that the religion of his early home was one of confinement and intolerance—unworthy of entertainment by a mind enlightened and enlarged by liberal studies."

Such was his political and religious creed when in his sixteenth year he became a student of Divinity. For many years hence his mind was variously divided between science and theology. In the first part of the course the latter received little attention, the ablest lectures on the subject being dull and dry compared with mathematical principles and problems. Later, however, he became absorbed in Jonathan Edwards' Free-will, whence he got new views of Deity; as appears from his own words many years later: "Long e'er I could relish evangelical sentiment I spent nearly a twelve-month in a sort of mental elysium, and the one idea which ministered to my soul all its rapture was the magnificence of the Godhead, and the universal subordination of all things to the one great purpose for which he evolved and was supporting creation." While acting as tutor, sometime after, he read Mirabeau's works, which shook his faith in the very foundation of truth, and plunged him into deep mental trials.

But while the enchanting field of science was in view he could not give himself wholly to theological speculation or ministerial duties. Therefore, when a vacancy occurs in the Mathematical Assistantship at St. Andrew's, he at once applies for the situation. He succeeds; and if as a student he was distinguished by his enthusiasm and the degree to which his studies ministered to his life, these features still more marked his Professorship. His first care was to get his pupils in sympathy with their work, a desire which in his early lectures called forth many eloquent appeals on behalf of science, particularly that branch of science he was about to investigate.

Many of these lectures are characteristic. Thus in combating the common belief that mathematics produced insensibility, he cites the life of Newton—at this time his perfect ideal—as proof to the contrary, and closes the fine eulogy with these words, "Newton, we invoke thy genius! may it preside over our labors and animate us to the arduous ascent of philosophy. May it revive the drooping interests of science, and awaken the flame of enthusiasm in the hearts of a degenerate people. May it teach us that science without virtue is an empty parade, and that that philosophy deserves to be extinguished which glances contempt on the sacred majesty of religion."

Again his generous nature and sympathy, and supreme attachment to study comes out in the call to exertion when spring came "inviting idleness." "It is difficult to resist the animating gaiety of nature." "God forbid that I should interrupt the harmless amusements or blast the innocent gaiety of youth." "Let me never interfere with their enjoyments, but to convince them that a life of indolence will entail upon all the miseries of languor and disgust." "Let the *supreme importance, then, of the subject that is now to occupy us, animate and sustain your exertions.*" You will look back with joyous exultation on the many hours you have devoted to the peaceful and improving labours of philosophy."

While, thus, the zeal of the student was aroused and sustained, there was also a shaking of the dry bones in the Faculty of St. Andrews; but unfortunately the revivification was manifested, at first, by a spurt of jealousy, which ended in the dismissal of Mr. Chalmers on the ground of incapacity.

The manner in which he met this terrible blow has perhaps nowhere a parallel. From no motive of malice, but from a single desire to vindicate his reputation, he, against the advice of parents and friends, the remonstrance of ministers, and the jealous opposition of the Professors of St. Andrews, establishes a lectureship in mathematics, chemistry and geology, almost under the eaves of the college whence he had been expelled. This bold experiment had a worthy termination: the boys welcomed him back and joined his classes; and at length a better understanding of the main character and purpose, together with