

Since it is evident, that the difficulties with which a true Christian, who takes more than an ordinary part, in labouring for the extension of the Redeemer's Kingdom, has to contend, are truly great, and his station very responsible, he may be much encouraged, as well, as gratified and relieved by perusing the historical accounts of the lives and labours of those eminently pious men who were distinguished for their sincere, and devoted attachment to the Gospel of Christ, and for their zealous, and successful endeavours to enlarge the borders of the Saviour's domain, and to bring wandering sinners from their dangerous course into the path of life, and peace; So we may be excited to diligence, and perseverance in the discharge of our responsible duties relative to the Church of Christ, and our own safety; by imitating the good qualities of this excellent man, the Rev. Claudius Buchanan, and become in some measure influenced by his example.

Claudius Buchanan, born at Ambushanger near Glasgow on 12th of March 1766, was

the son of Mr Alexander Buchanan, a man
of respectable learning and of excellent char-
acter. His mother was the daughter of Mr
Claudius Somers one of the Elders of the Church
at Cambuslang, both she and her father were
excited to a deep and lasting sense of religion
in consequence of the preaching of the celebra-
ted Mr Whitefield. By both these excellent
persons, he was trained from his earliest years
in religious principles and habits. Mr Buchan-
an was distinguished from his youth by a
lively and engaging disposition. In the
year 1773, young Buchanan at the age of seven
years, was sent to a grammar school at Aber-
ary, where he received the rudiments of his
education, and made considerable proficiency
in the Latin and Greek languages. He remained
at Aberary till 1779 when he was invited
to spend the vacations with John Cambell of
Othello near the island of Mull and 1779 he
received a call, to be tutor to the two sons of
one Cambell a captain of the East-India com-
pany's ship. In this capacity he continued
nearly two years, which may suffice to show
that his conduct proved satisfactory to the em-
ployer, being now about sixteen years of
age, he was under considerable impressions
of a religious nature, for a few months

he continued in this promising course, spending much time amidst ^{the} rocks on the sea shore, near which he was residing; but at length he lost that serenity, by associating with an irreligious companion, and his goodness vanished like a morning cloud, and as the early dawn many years after that salutary conviction led him to serve that God whom he had refused to serve in his youthful days.

In 1780, he left the family of Mr Campbell, and proceeded to Glasgow where he pursued the various studies of that place during that, & the following year. He left that place in 1784, and again, in the year 1786 he returned to the college of Glasgow where he had given commendable proof of attention, diligence and success in the prosecution of his studies; and that he had behaved with all suitable propriety of conduct and manners. Mr Buchanan had from his earliest years been intended, by his parents, for the ministry, but being naturally of an ardent and extensive turn of mind, he, at the age of 17 during his first residence at the University of Glasgow, conceived a design of making a tour of Europe on foot, for to see the world, and to collect useful information. nearly four years after this he prosecuted his design, leaving his native country under very singular circumstances; in his expedition he met with many difficulties, and was, in a short

reduced to the lowly grade of wretchedness and
want, and would gladly have returned, but he could not
the die was cast; his pride would have impelled him
to suffer death, sooner than to have exposed his folly,
and proceeding onward, he arrived at Newcastle, thence he
sailed to London. On the 3^d night of the voyage they were
in danger of being cast away, during a heavy gale of wind
the fourth first time, he began seriously to reflect on his situa-
tion, he felt as if the judgments of God was overtaking him,
no sooner had the tempest of the elements subsided, than
the agitation of his mind also passed away. He arrived in
London, with his spirits nearly exhausted by distress and
poverty. In 1789 he heard of the death of his father, vari-
ous other circumstances, together with the imprudent
manner, in which he left his native land, and the desert
which he had practiced upon his friends produced
perplexity, and unhappiness in his mind, which
extorted the emphatic expressions from him indica-
tive of the depth and sincerity of feeling, with which
he wrote to his affectionate, but ^{now} widowed mother,
I have lived, I know not how, in a state of forgetful-
ness or intoxication to this day; I lived in neglect of
religious duties, until in the year 1790, when
he was deeply impressed by a religious conver-

sation with a young gentleman of his acquaintance who called on him, and ^{he} began to see his undone condition by nature, and to know the ^{strength} and prevalence of ^{his} hatred. This ^{led} ^{him} to humble himself at the footstool of divine mercy, and to acknowledge his sinfulness, in hope of forgiveness and reformation of life. Although he was for a time very much distressed, yet by his continual longing after renewedness of life, he at length attained to a state of righteousness, peace, and joy in the holy Ghost. He felt the powerful influence of the love of Christ. He now resolved to give no longer to himself, but unto him that died for him, and rose again. He had once the low ambition of becoming a lawyer, but now he is so impressed with the dignity, and importance of the office of the ministry, that he would not only devote some years to that holy work, but was now willing to devote his whole life to it.

He made known his intention of becoming a minister of the gospel, to the excellent Mr. Newton, his intimate friend, by whom

he was encouraged, and assisted in the preparation for this good cause; some difficulties attended ^{him} in the determination upon this course, for his circumstances being such as to render him almost entirely dependant upon his friends: he repeatedly met with disappointments, and trials: until at length Mr

Thornton a gentleman to whom he had previously ^{been} introduced, determined (which the most sanguine expectations of Mr Buchanan had never ventured to anticipate) to send him to the University of Cambridge, at his own expense that he might enter the church with every possible advantage, for a high and extensive sphere of usefulness.

He accordingly proceeded to the University of Cambridge, where he pursued his studies with great ardour and perseverance with a due watchfulness over the interests of his soul, mindful of the necessity of elevated, and unaffected piety, and of great literary acquirements. The President ^{and Fellows} of Queen's Colledge speak in high

terms of Mr Claudius Buchanan; as follows
that he has been a member of that col-
-ledge for upwards of four years; during
which time regularly resided among us
and always conducted himself with the
greatest propriety, and decorum. His atten-
-tion to discipline, his sobriety, and pro-
-gress in learning, gave the greatest satis-
-faction to the governing part of the col-
-lege: and in general, we have no doubt
but that he is well qualified by talents, and
good principles to undertake the office
in India for which we are informed he
is a candidate. Thus having ended his
course of preparation for the ministry
In consequence of various testimonies to his
abilities as a scholar, his attainments as
a divine, and his general character for his tem-
-perate, and well directed zeal for the honour of
God, and the welfare of mankind Mr C Bue-
-nanan was appointed one of the chaplains
of the East-India company on wednesday
March 30th 1796. Soon after the appointment

of Mr Buchanan to India, ~~has~~ received
priestly orders from the bishop of London, and
in the month of May, went down to Dartford
in order at once to revisit his family and
again take leave of them previously to his
approaching voyage to India. The feelings
of both parties must have been of a mixed
but very interesting nature. Nearly nine years
had elapsed since Mr Buchanan had left
his native country, and sojourned in a
strange land. During this long interval
many remarkable events had occurred.
His affectionate earthly father was now
gone, but his widowed mother must have
been peculiarly pleased to behold he beloved,
and long absent son returning home,
having his life tuned to a new song of
joy, and thankfulness, enriched with di-
vine, and human knowledge, and honoured
by an appointment which more than
realized their highest wishes and expectations,
but all their joy was of a transient na-
ture, their feeling must have dampened

to think that he must return to London
in the first week of June.

Mr Buchanan left London for Portsmouth
on Sat. the 30th of July, and on the 11th of Aug. he
embarked on board the Busbridge East-
India man, and sailed for Bengal. About the
end of September he expected to reach the
Cape: And on the 10th of March Mr. B. landed
at Calcutta, two days before the completion
of the 31st year of his age. At the capital
of the British possession in India, he was, on
his arrival, hospitably received by the Rev.
Mr. Brown and resided for a short time in his
family. He then removed to Durrumbuloh, but
remained there only 2 mo. then he was appointed
chaplain at Barrackpore, a military station about
16 miles above Calcutta. This situation
was not congenial to his feelings, for he had
but few opportunities for the exercise of his
ministry. Considerable time elapsed until at
length Mr. B. removed to Calcutta. About
this time ^{it was determined} that measures should be taken
for establishing a college at Fort Will.

=ham. Immediately after the formation of this
institution, Mr Buchanan became vice-pro-
-vost of it. With the commencement of the year 1801
Mr B. entered upon his important, and laborious duties
as vice-Provost, and professor of Classics in the col-
of Fort William. His health, & spirits had hitherto been
more, or less depressed; nor was the former likely to be
improved by the various weighty engagements which
now devolved upon him. At work, however had at
length been assigned him both in the College, and
as one of the chaplains of the Presidency; which
while it demanded his utmost talents and
exertions, deeply interested his feelings, and animated
him with the hope of becoming extensively useful
in India. This institution flourished greatly, within
in a short time, the number of students in-
creased to about an hundred, and thirty; it was at
this time indeed in a very promising con-
dition; the students were distinguished for their
diligence in their various studies, and also for
their great proficiency. So that Mr Buchanan
added that an example of idleness was a rare
thing among them. But while the members
of the college of Fort William, were zealously

and successfully engaged in the prosecution
of their labours, the Governor general in council
on the 15th June 1802, received with the utmost con-
cern, the commands of the court of directors, for the
immediate abolition of that important insti-
tution. On the 22d following Lord Wellesley commu-
nicated this dispatch to Mr B., who in common
with every other friend of the college, deeply lamented
this unexpected termination, and directed him
to consider of a reply to the reasons upon it was
propounded ~~stated~~. The objections stated by the court
against the continuance of the institution ~~were~~ appar-
ently confined to the expense of it, and to the pres-
sure of that charge on the present circumstances
of the companies finances in India.
never, perhaps, Mr B. reply, was there an institu-
tion in any age, or country raised so rapidly on
so doubtful a foundation, on which flourished
so extensive ly, under such severe apparently
or which produced so much of public or pri-
vate good, in so short a space of time, as
the College of Fort William. Many a person
in Great Britain, and Ireland, who read
this gazette will lament that it should

be the battle of your own good wish for the
success of this institution I never entertain
as a doubt. And I even believe that your influ-
ence in the direction will induce them to qualify
the late letter of abolition. But it is probable
that any thing less than the ample support of the
first principles and first establishment of the
institution will restore it to its first dignity
or maintain its present effect.

But in the midst of this uncertainty, we are
sure that the Lord reigneth, and that his gracious pro-
vidence hath ordered all things right; hath produced
the good already done, and will overcome the evil
past, and to come to his own glory, and the good of his
faith Church on earth. It is now upwards of
three years since I was appointed to office in
this college, and as I before mentioned to you
every collegiate object of a private nature is ex-
tinct in my breast, and I would gladly resign
my situation to some other person of more ac-
tivity, health, and spirits, even in the event of the
Court's increasing the first dignity, and impor-
tance of the institution. Our hope of evangelize
ing India was once founded on the Col. of Fort

William, but a rude hand hath already touch'd
as it, and unless the imperial parliament
interpose, it will soon be said of this great and
useful institution, which enliven'd a he-
misphere of the globe "Facta est in gloria"
Its name however will remain for its
record in many languages, and the good it hath
done will never die. For it hath taught
many the way to heaven. Mr B. received at this
time from the University of Glasgow a diploma con-
ferring upon the degree of doctor in divinity.
Dr Buchanan on the 19th of ¹⁸⁰⁵ March projected a
journey to the south of the peninsula, he in
a few weeks proceeded to Malabar, the
design of this extensive, and laborious jour-
ney was to obtain a distinct view of the
state of Christianity, and of superstition
in Asia of the superstition and idolatry which
Dr B. witnessed during his absence much
might be said. Dr B. returned safely to Calcutta
on the 15th March after a voyage of five weeks,
upon his return, he found that the college of Fort
William, which had flourished nearly 7 years
had been reduced within very narrow limits.

Dr B., after much exertion, and labour for the propagation of Christianity in India at length returned to England.

Dr B. was of an excellent disposition of mind deeply impressed with a sense of religion, and sensibly impressed with importance of the salvation of souls, patient of labour ever submissive to the will, under every trying circumstance. During his abode of twelve years in India, his spirit was stirred within him, while he beheld millions of his fellow subjects under a Christian government, as sheep, without a shepherd, perishing for want of knowledge, he devoted his time to study, and a large portion of his income to excite the attention of the British nation to this sad spectacle, by his Christian researches, and other valuable productions he pleaded the cause of neglected India, nor did he plead in vain, Britain was roused to a sense of her duty, and sent forth labourers to the harvest. Though gentle, and unassuming, he was bold, and intrepid in this work he renounced all dependance on himself, and look for eternal salvation through Christ's obedience unto death. He departed this life on Feb 9 1815 aged 48 At Broxbourne, in Hertfordshire

and was buried near the remains of his amiable
wife whose virtues he had recorded on the
adjoining stone. They were lovely & pleasant
in their lives, and in their death they were
not long divided.