

parishioners, who had, however, a great regard for him, and whom he liked, in turn, for his blunt honesty and obliging disposition. They had baited for some time at a house in the outer skirts of my brother's parish, where there was a child to baptize, and where, I fear, Donald must have got an extra dram ; for he was very argumentative all the evening after ; and finding he could not agree with my brother on any one subject, he suffered him to shoot a-head for a few hundred yards, and did not again come up with him, until, in passing through a thick clump of natural wood, he found him standing, lost in thought, before a singularly-shaped tree. Donald had never seen such a strange looking tree in all his days before. The lower part of it was twisted in and out, and backwards and forwards, like an ill-made cork-screw ; while the higher shot straight upwards, direct as a line, and its taper top seemed like a finger pointing at the sky. 'Come, tell me, Donald,' said my brother, 'what you think this tree is like?' 'Indeed I kenna, Mr. Lachlan,' replied Donald ; 'but if you let me tak' that straight bit aff the tap o't, it will be gey an' like the *worm o' a whisky still.*' 'But I cannot want the straight bit,' said my brother ; 'the very pith and point of my comparison lies in the straight bit. One of the old fathers would perhaps have said, Donald, that the tree resembled the course of the Christian. His early progress has turns and twists in it, just like the lower part of that tree ; one temptation draws him to the left,—another to the right : his upward course is a crooked one ; but it is an upward course for all that ; for he has, like the tree, the principle of sky-directed growth within him : the disturbing influences weaken as grace strengthens and appetite and passion decay ; and so the early part of his career is not more like the warped and twisted trunk of that tree, than his latter years resemble its taper top. He shoots off heavenward in a straight line.' " Such is a specimen of the anecdotes of this poor woman. I saw her once afterwards, though for only a short time ; when she told me that, though people could not understand *us*, there was meaning in both her thoughts and in mine ; and some years subsequently, when I was engaged