

# A LIGHT ON PARENTING

By Geoff Serpell

In 1910, Professor James Cooper of the Glasgow University was a prominent advocate for union between the Scottish and Anglican churches.

He wrote of his childhood in a Morayshire farmhouse.

During wintertime, he would often call for the early lighting of the lantern so he could read his books.

This would sometimes be met with the encouragement to “bring your chair into the “circle” (around the fireplace) and listen to what your parents have to say”.

The fact that he became a professor and remembered those moments encourages us to believe he got his early lamp and was often in that family circle.

## Reflection:

Education comes in many forms, and parents, at their best, should be a lamp and a light for their children.

*Adapted from The Friendship Book 2025*

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