

1821, Jan. 1. Resolve, in order if possible to enforce future diligence, in the course of the present year to read over the Bible in English, having this morning, in course, read the epistle of James—to read over the Bible in Greek—to read the Bible in Hebrew from Job to Malachi—to read fifty volumes at average octavo size, in French or English—to read a thousand pages of Ernesti's edition of Cicero, beginning to-day at the 186th page, first volume—to prepare for publication 200 pages of letter-press duodecimo—to spend fifty days in visiting and catechising the congregation—to lecture over forty chapters, beginning at the 21st of Genesis."

Habits of study, early formed, and so happily sustained, continued with him to the close of life. Although his constitution was feeble, the willingness of the spirit supported the weakness of the flesh. In order the better to redeem the time, he adopted a practice in which all students would do well to follow him,—to note, at the end of every week, the hours in it which had been lost or misemployed. His last publications show how well he kept up with the theological literature of the day; and the reader, who observes the references, in his books on Pardon and Assurance, to the most recent writings on the subject, cannot fail to wonder how he found time to peruse them. His conversation took the colour of his learning,—although, as we shall afterwards have occasion to remark, it drew a still deeper tincture from his piety. He had the rare art of breaking down his knowledge to the capacity of the young, while it had compass and depth enough to instruct the old. And all was communicated with scarce the seeming consciousness of its possession; there was a singular ease and nature in his artless scattering of information; he was always teaching, and never pedantic.

The opinions of such a man respecting books were likely to be most valua-

ble. Just enough of them, however, is preserved, to make us wish that there had been more.

"In acquiring clear views," he says, "of the Christian system, I have been under the greatest obligations to Edwards, Williams, Scott, and Fuller. Amongst the practical writers on religion it is not easy to specify those who have contributed most to my edification and enjoyment. Those who dwell most on the unsearchable grace and matchless glories of the Redeemer, have long been my principal favourites. I cannot express my admiration of the Scotch Covenanters. Single sentences in the writings of Durham have often been food to my soul for days. The works of Rutherford, Brown, and Gray, were often exceedingly sweet and savoury. William Bridges, Richard Allein, and some parts of Flavel, frequently proved like marrow and fatness. Hervey and the Erskines many a time delighted and instructed me. I loved the theology and the spirit of Owen. But the man in whose writings I found the most massy and precious matter was Boston. The greatest part of his writings are merely the loose and undigested effusions of his mind on the text from which he was intending to preach next Sabbath. But though without revision, polish, or enlargement, they are stored with the most sublime and elevating views of the person and grace of the Redeemer that can be found in any uninspired composition. They are such as none but a man of a vigorous mind, and who lived near to God, could have produced.

"Such works have long been my greatest luxuries, and I have felt the strongest reluctance to be obliged to abandon them for secular business, ecclesiastical wranglings, or the contentions of controversy. It was like the suburbs of heaven, when, on the Sabbath evening, relieved from worldly cares and distraction, I could sit down for hours to such volumes."

But his care for the adequate furnishing of his intellect was at least equalled by his solicitude to have always a conscience void of offence. At an early age, as has been already mentioned, he began to keep an early register of his frames; and the first entry in it shews a very distinct appreciation of the way in which the keeping of such a