

the following were some of his reflections:—"This day I enter into eighty-eighth year. For above eighty-six years, I found none of the firmities of old age; my eyes did not wax dim, neither was my natural strength abated; but last August, I found almost a sudden change: my eyes were so dim that no glasses could help me: my strength likewise now forsook me, and probably will not return in this world: but I feel pain from head to foot; only it seems, nature is exhausted, and human speaking, will sink more and more, till

'The weary springs of life stand still at last.' "

"This," says Dr. Whitehead, "at length was literally the case. The death of Mr. Wesley, like that of his Brother Charles, being one of the rare instances in which nature, drooping under the load of years, sank by a gentle decay. For several years preceding his death, this decay was, perhaps, more visible to others than to himself, particularly by a more frequent disposition to sleep during the day, by a growing defect of memory, a faculty he once possessed in a high degree of perfection, and by a general diminution of the vigour and agility he had so long enjoyed. His labours, however, suffered little interruption; and when the summer came, it found him as he always wished it should, in the harness, still occupied in his Master's work."

Mr. Wesley ceased from a daily record of his proceedings, probably because in consequence of the failure of his sight writing* had become inconvenient to him, in October of this year; yet he continued during autumn and winter to visit various places, fervently praying, "Lord, let me not live to be useless." And in February he had actually sent a chaise and horses to Bristol, with a view to take his accustomed journey through Ireland or Scotland, and had taken places for himself and friends in the Bath Coach, when his design was frustrated by the sickness which ended in his death. Every temporary improvement in his health was made available to the great work in which he had spent his long and valuable life, inasmuch that he preached three or four times afterwards, though

* Mr. Wesley was a voluminous writer; and as he was one of the great instruments in reviving the spirit of religion in Great Britain, so he led the way to those praiseworthy attempts which have been made to diffuse useful information of every kind, to smooth the path of knowledge to the middle and lower ranks of society. Books on religious subjects, he published many small and cheap treatises on various branches of science; plain and excellent grammars of the dead languages; expurgated editions of the classic authors; histories, civil and ecclesiastical; and numerous abridgements of important works. His principal writings are, his translations of the New Testament, with explanatory Notes, quarto; his Journals, 6 vols. duodecimo; his sermons, 9 vols. duodecimo; his Appeals to Men of Reason and Religion; his defence of the doctrine of Original Sin, in answer to Dr. Taylor; his answers to the Church, and Bishops Latyngton and Warburton; and his Predestination calmly considered, besides many smaller Tracts on various important subjects. These are republished in 14 handsome Octavo Vols. and his work on the New Testament 2 Vols. Octavo. In addition to his original compositions, he published a Christian Library in 50 duodecimo vols.; Thirteen vols. of the Arminian Magazine; a History of England; a general Ecclesiastical History in 4 Vols. each; a compendium of Natural Philosophy in 5 vols.; an Exposition of the Old Testament in 3 quarto vols. &c.