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ROBERT HALL.

From a Discourse, entitled "*The destruction of the last Enemy considered, and a Tribute to the Memory of Departed Excellence offered,*" on the decease of the Rev. ROBERT HALL, A. M., of Bristol, delivered on Lord's-day Morning, March 6, 1831, in the Baptist Chapel, Stoke Newington, by Rev. NEWTON BOSWORTH, F. R. A. S.

THE late Rev. ROBERT HALL was born at the village of Arnsby, in Leicestershire, about eight miles from the county town, on the 2d of May, 1764. His father was an eminently pious minister of the gospel, and pastor of the Baptist Church in the same village; a man endowed with many elements of greatness, a lively genius, and a penetrating mind; highly esteemed by all who knew him, and worthy of being the parent of such a son. The younger Hall gave early indications of those talents which afterwards astonished and delighted the world, and of that piety towards God which was the crowning grace of his character. He displayed an ardent thirst for knowledge, and intense application in the pursuit of it. Having reached the limit of village instruction, he was placed under the care of the celebrated Mr. Ryland, of Northampton, whose school was in high reputation, and where he was prepared for the Theological Academy in Bristol, which he entered in the year 1788, having been previously admitted into the church at Arnsby, to the great joy of his father. As early as twelve years of age, he appears to have been engaged in prayer-meetings, and other religious exercises, in his father's congregation; and at the age of sixteen years and three months, having frequently addressed the people on religious topics, he was called to the ministry by the unanimous voice of the church, on the 13th of August, 1780. On his completion of the term at Bristol, he proceeded to the University of Aberdeen, where he took his degree of M. A. During his residence in this seat

of learning, he cultivated his talents with uncommon assiduity and success, being brought into contact with many elevated minds, and some congenial spirits, who both communicated and received many salutary impressions, and called forth his powers to their loftiest exercise. On the conclusion of his course at Aberdeen, in 1783, he returned to Bristol as classical tutor in the Academy. This situation he filled, with much reputation to himself and benefit to the students, until the year 1790, when, on the decease of the celebrated Mr. Robinson, pastor of the Baptist Church at Cambridge, he was invited to preach there, and in the course of the same year he settled there as the successor of that extraordinary man. Talents, such as those of Mr. Hall, were not likely to remain long in obscurity; and the congregation was gradually increased by the addition of many persons who were attracted by his eloquence. The growth of his popularity, however, like that of every thing which is excellent, was at first but slow; his style of preaching was never that which first astonishes, and then disappoints. It was of too high an order to be immediately acceptable to those who had never been accustomed to any thing similar to it. His own people, however, regarded him all along with warm admiration, and his continuance among them only increased their attachment and veneration, until it was raised as high as human feeling could carry it. The increase of his congregation, though not rapid, was both continuous and permanent; and hence it became necessary to enlarge the place of