

glacial writings as "throwing plain geologists like himself into the shade," and the author of the "Bridgewater Treatise" on Geology, said in his hearty way that, he would give his left hand to possess such powers of description as this man; and if it pleased Providence to spare his useful life, he if any one would certainly render the science attractive and popular, and do equal service to theology and geology." This prediction was amply fulfilled before the Association met again in Glasgow. Mr. (now Sir Charles) Lyall, who was in the Chair of the Geological Section when Mr. Miller's merits were the subject of eulogium, had only three years before, in his "Elements of Geology," bestowed about a couple of pages on the Old Red, not without considerable hesitation, apparently, as to its claims to be regarded as a formation apart from the Carboniferous system. To Mr. Miller more than to any other geologist, undoubtedly belongs the honor of having demonstrated, what previous observers had begun to suspect, that the Old Red Sandstone was entitled to rank as an independent formation, by its distinctive fossils, many of which he was the first to discover and describe. In the dedication of his pleasant volume on this subject to his countryman and friend, Sir R. Murchison, he says—"Like the gentleman whom I have now the honor of addressing, I too, was born on the old Red Sandstone, and first broke ground as an inquirer into geological fact in a formation scarcely at all known to the geologist, and in which there still remains much for future discoveries to examine and describe." Mr. Miller had projected, and had advanced far in the preparation of a work on the general geology of Scotland; but it is with the old Red Sandstone that his name as a geologist will be permanently connected. The work in which he traces the progress of his observations, has been probably prized more for its moral interest and its literary excellencies than even for its geological descriptions. It is such a book as Oliver Goldsmith might have written, had he been a naturalist, which he was not; but still when Goldsmith wrote on natural history, he threw the natural historians into the shade by his marvellous powers of description; and of all the writers of the golden age of British Literature, it has always appeared to us that Mr. Miller's style came nearest to the exquisite English of Goldsmith. To Mr. Miller's versatile talents, and the varied contributions of his pen to criticism, art, philosophy, and science, is applicable, also, more than to any other writer of the day, the panegyric pronounced upon Goldsmith that there was no branch of knowledge which he did not touch, and which touching he did not adorn. His most profound work, the "Footprints of the Creator, or the Asterolepis of Stromness," is a contribution to natural theology of inestimable importance. It has been adopted as a textbook by some of the most eminent teachers of geology in the Universities; and it has done more to expose the atheistical fallacies and sophistries of the "Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation" than even the elaborate essays of Sedgwick and Brewster.

But to other and abler pens must be assigned the task of estimating the genius, the character and the services to religion, science, literature, and social progress, of this marvellous man. We must content ourselves with these brief and hasty recollections of his life and labors, in recording the unexpected and sorrowful intelligence of his death. Thousands here and in other lands will join with us in the tribute of an honest tear to the memory of a man of true heart and noble powers of intellect, devoted to the loftiest purposes. Little did we think, when we met Mr. Miller last year, in the genial and kindly intercourse of the British Association, that we were to see his face no more; and that at the early age of fifty-four, he would be lost to the Church which he loved, and to the cause of Christian science which owes so much to his example

and labours. Death has made sad inroads of late years upon the ranks of the cultivators of natural science. Dr. Landsborough, Professor Edward Forbes, Dr. Johnston of Berwick, Mr. Yarrell, and now Mr. Hugh Miller, have passed away in rapid succession—and Forbes and Miller have left behind them no equals.

"Like clouds that rake the mountain-summits,  
Or waves that own no curling hand,  
How fast has brother followed brother,  
From sunshine to the sunless land!"

#### CALLS, &c.

**PEMBROKE.**—The Rev. H. McMeekin has received a call from the Congregation at Pembroke, which has been accepted.

**EDWARDSBURGH.**—The Rev. A. Melville has accepted a call from the Congregation at Edinburgh.

**WHITBY.**—The Congregation at Whitby have given a call to the Rev. Thomas Lowry, of Bradford.

**MARKHAM.**—The Congregations in Markham have united in a call to the Rev. R. C. Swinton, of Melbourne, C. E.

**BERLIN.**—The 28th ult., was appointed by the Presbytery of Hamilton, for moderating in a call to a Minister.

**PUSLINCH WEST.**—The Rev. Andrew McLean, recently sent out by the Colonial Committee of the Free Church, is about to be settled as Pastor of the Congregation of West Puslinch.

**NIAGARA.**—The Rev. J. Pirie has resigned the Pastoral charge of the Congregation at Niagara, in consequence of continued ill health.

**ALDBORO'.**—The ladies of the congregation of Aldboro' have presented their Pastor, the Rev. D. McMillan, with several valuable articles amounting to £50, as a New Year's gift.

**PUSLINCH EAST.**—The congregation of East Puslinch recently presented their Pastor, the Rev. Alex. McLean, with a cutter, harness and buffalo robes,—a useful and appropriate present for a minister in Canada.

**BOWMANVILLE.**—The congregation of Bowmanville presented Mrs. Smith, the wife of their Pastor, with a New Year's gift, of the value of twenty-five pounds.

**PICTON.**—The congregation of this place presented their Pastor the Rev. T. S. Chambers, with a purse containing £30 as a Christmas gift.

**PRESBYTERY OF LONDON.**—In consequence of the absence of the clerk of Presbytery, we have not received an account of the proceedings of the Presbytery at its recent meeting.

We understand that after a long discussion on the subject of the Call from Boston to the Rev. W. McLaren, it was agreed to cite all parties interested to attend the next ordinary meeting on the first Tuesday of April.

**THE EFFECT OF A GOOD EXAMPLE.**—We lately received the following letter from a little friend in the Township of Markham:—"Dear Sir—I take much pleasure in following the ex-

ample of the little girl mentioned in the last Record. I wish you to give this money to the Foreign Mission. If I am spared, I hope to be able to give a little every year.

"A LITTLE FRIEND."

The letter contained ten dollars.

**COLLEGE FUND.**—We beg to call attention to the circular just issued on the subject of contributions for the College Fund, the ordinary Professorial Fund. Now that the staff of Professors is increased, it is absolutely necessary that congregations increase their contributions. We earnestly press this matter on all congregations. If each does its duty the burden will be easily borne.

#### Items of Religious Intelligence.

**RECEPTION OF DR. LIVINGSTONE.**—Dr. Livingstone, the African missionary and traveller, has been receiving a very gratifying reception in England, not only from the London Missionary Society, in whose service he was, but also from various scientific societies. Dr. Livingstone's discoveries are of great importance in a geographical and commercial, as well as in a missionary point of view.

**DEATH OF REV. DR. HARRIS.**—Recent papers announce the death of the Rev. Dr. Harris, Principal of New College, London. Dr. Harris was the author of "Mammon" and a number of other prize essays. His death will be severely felt, especially by the Congregational body, of which he was a distinguished ornament.

**THE TRACTARIANS DISCOMFITED.**—Judgment has been given by Sir John Dodson, in the matter of the complaint which had been presented regarding the popish endowments in St. Paul's and St. Barnabas' Churches in Pimlico. An elaborate judgment was delivered against the continuance of the crosses, candles, vases and embroideries.

**NEW WALDENSIAN CHURCH.**—The new Waldensian Church at Nice was lately opened by Dr. Revel, Moderator of Synod. M. Malon, Pastor of La Tour, the capital of the Valleys, offered up prayer in Italian, and M. Pilatte, Pastor of the congregation, delivered an eloquent and impressive sermon.

**SCHOOL FOR THE CHILDREN OF MISSIONARIES.**—The foundation stone of a school for the children of missionaries of various evangelical denominations. Lord Shaftesbury presided on the occasion. There are at present in the school, children or grand children of some of the noblest of modern missionaries, such as Williams, Moffatt, and Livingstone.

**LAY EVANGELISTS IN SCOTLAND.**—Two gentlemen, once well known as men of pleasure, now devoted and zealous witnesses for Christ, are at present attracting much attention in Scotland. The individuals referred to are, Mr. Brownlow North, a nephew of the Earl of Guildford, and Mr. Gordon Forlong. These gentlemen's labours have been extensively