

ever since exerted upon the nation in particular, and upon Christianity in general, clearly attest the fidelity with which they completed the important and sacred work which they were summoned to undertake. Here despotism received a death-blow, and civil and religious liberty were established upon an immovable foundation. Here the fundamental doctrines of our most holy religion were defined and successfully defended. Here was erected a standard for truth, and a banner unfurled which in bloodless triumph should continue to wave until the "kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ."

(To be continued.)

## RELIGIOUS MISCELLANY.

### LIGHT IN THE SHADOW OF DEATH.\*

The physician told her with delicacy, but with entire frankness, that her left arm was much diseased, and that he could only palliate her ailment, but do nothing toward a cure. She heard his announcement with perfect calmness, and said, with a smile, "I thought it most likely." She spoke many times afterward of her sentence that morning. She felt that the doom of death was upon her; but she said, "As plainly as with the eye of heaven I did I see the Saviour look down into the depth of my sin, weakness, and disappointment, and His voice saying, 'Innumerable tenderness, 'Thou art mine, I have redeemed thee.'" This assurance buoyed her up to a height of joy and blessed anticipation she had never before experienced, which never left her. At another time she said, "I never had such happiness compressed into such a period, as during the time, after I left the doctor's house.—I seemed to let go life, and every interest but Jesus Christ. I said in words, almost aloud, 'Now shall I prepare for eternity!' Happy the answer, 'My dear, what must do it for me!' " While in a railway carriage, on her way home, she talked with a little girl, who told her that her brother had consumption. She answered, "So have I." Her little companion looked surprised, but added, "My brother is very ill, and is going to die." Again did Belle almost echo the words, and said, "And I am very

ill, and am going to die;" and this utterance seemed to bring such a full wave of gladness over her soul, that she could hardly refrain from telling her fellow-traveller of her joy. Nor was this a temporary excitement. This experience, that "the joy of the Lord was her strength," never ceased for an instant while life lasted. She fully exemplified the case of those who are enabled to fulfil the command, "Only believe." Never was there on earth a happier creature; yet, quick as were her consideration and sympathy for all around her, never for one moment was she beguiled into linking herself with any purpose save that of dying. She used to say, "I never read a verse in my Bible, that I do not feel as if I had received a letter from my Lord." She said one day to a dear cousin, "Sometimes, during the night, my anticipations of heaven have been so vivid, I have seemed to see so far into the glory that I have been obliged forcibly to turn my thoughts to earth; my poor body was too weak to bear it. The brightest and best feature of all its freedom from sin, and nearness to Christ." And again, "Only think of the moment when the conviction will rush over me in its fulness—safe—finished! It is too much! What am I? Why was I, of all my family, first chosen for this blessed experience? To lay down the burden of life, ere I felt it to be such, now, while my heart is so buoyant and cheerful! I have known no crushing sorrow, no decayed joy, no light. A life of mercy, everything that love, wisdom, and abundance could do for me, has been done—every advantage of education and

\* A Sketch of Isabella S. Wilburn, New York, for private circulation.