

SERMON.

“ PREPARE TO MEET THY GOD.”

Amos c. 4th v. 12.

P. **THE** solemn occasion on which we are now assembled, to perform the last offices of duty, gratitude, and friendship to one of the most respected and distinguished characters of this community,—this occasion, with all its attendant circumstances, addresses every ear of reason amongst us, and in language, audible and appalling as the last peal of the thunderstorm ; implores us also, to prepare to meet God, in Death, Judgment, and Eternity. Oh ! it is at such a season as this, when the heart is softened by the recollection of our own, and the spectacle of others' bereavement, and with such a scene before us, the deep, cold, damp grave—the sable coffin about to be deposited in its bosom—around, the relatives vainly endeavouring to suppress the throbbing sighs that convulse the bosom, and to restrain the tears which bedew the countenance.—On every face of the numerous auditors, the impress of solemn thought, and captivated attention. It is under the influence of such a season and scene, that the soul most convincingly feels the remonstrances of conscience, the convictions of moral duty, the loveliness of religion in Life ; and its indispensable necessity in death. Permit me, then, in endeavouring to improve this dispensation of providence to the advancement of our best interests—to direct your attention to the following inquiries, namely : How—Why—and When, should we prepare to meet God. In adverting successively to these all-important topics, our sole aim is to illustrate them in a brief and simple, a practical and scriptural manner ; and in conclusion to detail some of the more prominent and charac-