

"If the progress of an eminent architect in the erection of some magnificent structure be worthy of inspection, and if censure be unwise, when the observer's data for it are derived from its present incompleteness, instead of from acquaintance with his secret plan of operation, surely the productions of an infinitely wise Architect demand our attention, not merely because they discover wisdom, but on the account of our personal interest in them. And if it be improper to censure the former, while we remain ignorant of his design, and the comparative state of completeness in which his labours are viewed, it is infinitely more so to criminate the latter; because his present conduct may appear contradictory to our conception, when we neither know its antecedence, nor the end to be accomplished by it. The more closely we inspect the divine dispensations, the greater wisdom, design, and connection shall we be able to trace, and be all the less disposed to condemn what we cannot comprehend. Our love and admiration will be excited towards the Being who orders all things according to the most consummate wisdom; and the apparent discrepancies existing between different events, will prove beneficial in their influence, by cherishing anticipations of the perfect state, in which we shall no longer see through a glass darkly. Then the beauty and harmony of the scheme shall be fully manifested to the irradiated understandings of the ransomed; and they seeing His goodness magnified, and His wisdom exalted in the consummation of all things, shall eternally praise Him who has given grace and glory, "who is glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders."\*

Let these considerations, therefore, teach all of us humbleness of mind. Let us be content to follow Christ as our teacher, and gratefully acknowledge his goodness in the degree of light he has been pleased to communicate. Let us remember that though we know only in *part*, that part is sufficient to conduct us to eternal felicity: and when removed into a higher state, the darkness which now encompasses us shall flee away, and we shall enjoy the light of the Divine countenance forever. Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.

AMEN.

OMEGA.

\* The Rev. Thomas Scott.

*From the Edinburgh Christian Instructor.*

## MEMOIR OF DR. M'CRIE.

The brief Memorial of Dr. Andrew Thompson, in the last Number, may with propriety be followed up by a tribute of affectionate regard and veneration to Dr. Thomas M'Crie. These two distinguished men accorded in principle, as they resembled one another in certain leading features of mental character. They contended together—the one within, and the other without the church—for the same great truths of our common Christianity, and for the same pure and scriptural scheme of ecclesiastical administration. For nearly twenty years they lived in habits of uninterrupted and friendly intercourse; and both were removed by death, as with the suddenness of a translation, to the resting-place of the spirits of the just.

It was on the 5th of August, 1835, the death of Dr. M'Crie took place, in the 63d year of his age, and 40th of his ministry. His frame, though apparently robust, had been subject for several years to severe attacks of *le douloureux* and *crisypelas*; and these, combined with his constant labours and sedentary studies, gradually reduced his strength. In the summer of 1835, however, he had so far recovered his vigour, as to be able to visit the churches of his communion in different parts of the country. These visits seem to have been accompanied with a special blessing from the great Head of the church, and they are still remembered with freshness, as so many parting tokens left behind to them by this favoured servant of the Lord. From some internal symptoms, he had felt his constitution giving way; and to some of his friends and relations he expressed himself persuaded, as Dr. Thomson had done before him, that he would die *soon and suddenly*. He was removed in the full career of his usefulness—in the full possession of his mental powers—in the height of his fame—and at a period of life when we might have calculated on enjoying the fruits of his labours for years yet to come. But he had done much; and whether we view him as an able and useful minister of Christ, or as eminently "the historiographer of the church," we must say of him, that he was truly a great man, and a "master in Israel."

In vigour of intellect, extent of literary and theological knowledge, independence of thinking, and enlightened devotedness to the best of causes, Dr. M'Crie was equalled by few—surpassed by none. Although he belonged, ecclesiastically, to a small section of the Christian church, his life, his talents, his labours, were the common property of the Christian world. Although not a member of the church of Scotland, and although deeply concerned on account of her defections, he held, with a firm grasp, those great principles on which her civil establishment rests, and his appearances in support of these principles were as enlightened as they were disinterested. He was ordained in 1795, as a pastor of the Associate Congregation in