

bers of the family, he spoke most earnestly and affectionately of the great concerns of eternity, sweetly commending to them the Saviour whom he himself trusted and loved. As his end approached, his hope and joy became brighter and brighter. He seemed to be in the land of Beulah, and visions of coming glory seemed to dawn upon his soul. About the midnight hour preceding his decease, he sang the 23rd Psalm, 4th to 6th verse—"Yea though I walk in death's dark vale," &c., &c., with clear voice and with a rapture of ecstatic joy, which filled those present with amazement, and made some of them say they had never heard singing till then.

A short while before he breathed his last, he took an affectionate farewell of all present, and then composed himself to meet the great change. His mind was now carried away beyond the things of time. Twice over he was heard to exclaim, "Oh! the blessedness of eternity!" "Oh! the blessedness of eternity!"—"Oh! how I long!" "Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly." On the passage being quoted, "Fear not, for I am with thee," &c., he replied quickly, and in the manner of strongest, sweetest confidence, "I do not fear." Life was now ebbing fast—the last moment had come—and lifting up his clasped hands as in prayer, he exclaimed, "I am going to glory!" and sweetly fell asleep in Jesus.

In his early death we have another instance of God's mysterious providence in removing from the world so many of those who seem most fitted for usefulness in it.—But we feel that he has had his mission and fulfilled it. In him we have seen realized much of the meekness and gentleness of Christ.—We have seen the blessedness of always abiding in him. We have seen a marked instance of glorying in tribulation, and a practical exemplification that tribulation worketh patience, and patience experience, and experience hope; and now we are sure that he realizes the condition of the glorified ones described in the text from which we strove on the following sabbath to improve the occasion:—"These are they that came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

J. B.

#### LETTER FROM MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF NEW COLLEGE, EDINBURGH.

We have received the following letter from the former secretary of the Knox College Missionary Society, with a request to publish it. We willingly comply with this request, believing that it will be interesting not only to the students, now scattered throughout the country, but also to many others.

NEW COLLEGE, EDINBURGH,  
March, 1860.

DEAR BRETHREN:—We are again reminded by the rapid approach of the close of the session, that it is time for us to renew our intercourse with distant friends. As of old we have to express our feelings of interest in your welfare, and our hope that in every sense, especially in that which is the truest and highest, you are in a happy and prosperous condition. With regard to ourselves,

we have not much that is extraordinary to communicate. The period of the session which has elapsed has not been marked by anything external, the narration of which would be likely to prove at all interesting. We have had, as always, many addresses from honored servants of the Lord; some of them actively and successfully engaged at home in winning souls; some of them, also, who have spent honored and useful years in those countries, which, more pre-eminently, are still "the dark places of the earth." Such addresses are never without their fruit; and even when no fruit can be traced at the time, we have every reason to believe that the bread thus cast on the waters will yet be found, even though it should be after many days. At all events it is impossible that the sympathies of those who know anything of the value of the truth in their own experience should not be called forth towards those who are perishing for the lack of knowledge, by so many powerful appeals on their behalf. We know that there is always the greatest danger of feelings evaporating in mere excitement, more especially when the action to which they are intended to give rise is surrounded by so many difficulties, and necessitates so much self-denial as in the present case. It is a danger which nothing but the indwelling power of God's spirit can ever obviate. And this is a truth to which we all have need of becoming daily more alive. Many, indeed we believe most of our members are engaged as formerly in Home Mission operations, and this we have all encouragement, to hope is both of present benefit, and may serve as a preparation for active work in the Lord's cause, whether in Christian or in heathen lands. Besides we have to record with some measure of gratification and we trust of thankfulness, that within the last few months no fewer than four of our number have left their native land to declare among the heathen the unsearchable riches of Christ. We are all aware that this is but a small number out of so many. We are all aware that if we had truly attained to the selling of all that we have to buy the pearl of great price, the proportion of those devoting themselves would be far greater. Still we would desire to be grateful that even such a number of our members have obtained faith to enable them to resign for love of souls and decline for the Redeemer's glory all the comforts and attractions of a life at home. May this prove indeed but a day of small things compared with that which shall come after it. And that it may be so not only amongst us but in every similar institution; we trust that you and we shall alike unite in more hearty and persevering prayer than we have ever yet known, for a large outpouring of that Spirit who alone impart all powerful love and faith. We think that amongst ourselves there is a greater and a growing appreciation of prayer. We hope it is the same with you. Truly, the want of such an increased appreciation—inexcusable at all times—would at present argue an amount of dearth and coldness scarcely compatible with spiritual life at all. Making every limitation that can be made, surely no one whose heart is in any degree right with God, can doubt that in an altogether unusual measure the Holy Spirit has been manifesting His power in many lands. And if there be one lesson which all the phenom-

ena of this great revival are calculated to impress, it is that of the power of earnest and believing prayer. May you and we, and all who are servants of the one Divine Master, learn that lesson more and more; for assuredly we are far enough from realizing the truth of that wondrous saying,— "Whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." We feel, that in such times as these, those who, like us, aspire to the office which, when rightly estimated, is seen to be the highest that the world contains, have a far more than ordinary need of prayer, that only channel by which we can draw out of the wisdom and the fulness that are in Jesus Christ. These are indeed times of rich and gracious joy and blessing, but they are all the more times of the deepest responsibility. We have, it is true, reason to be thankful that ours is the prospect of being called to work in fields that seem ripe already to the harvest. But let us not forget that as the harvest is the season for which all others are the preparation, so it is that in which the most incessant toil and the most watchful care is demanded of the laborer. In so far as it depends at all on human agency, it depends on us, and on others in a like position, whether what we have seen so recently shall be an isolated and in explicable fact in the record of the Church, or only the commencement of an energy and a hoiness and devotion hereafter to become normal in her history. We need not expect that God will increase, or even continue the blessing, if it is not received in that true spirit of thanksgiving which will prompt men to take advantage of it. Let us beware how we come to imagine that now the Spirit is to work so mightily that the need for human effort will be superseded. There is, perhaps, little danger of any of us formally avowing any such belief; but there is a danger of our acting as if we cherished it. We feel, too, that there is a danger on the other hand of our being used, perhaps, as instruments in saving souls, and being lifted up with spiritual pride, as if by our own might and our own power we had done this great thing. Should we fall into such a snare, will not God in mercy to us as well as in justice, cause this work to cease from prospering in our hands? But how can we tell all the dangers to which we are exposed? These we know, in part, are past number; and doubtless there are ten thousand others which are mercifully covered from our eyes. Into every snare that surrounds our path, we are at such a season as the present, in double danger of falling. In proportion to the importance of the work in which we are engaged, is the need of humble and wary walking.

We know that you will not imagine we are setting before you in any fancied spirit of superiority, as if it were ours to warn and to instruct all others. We speak of them only because we feel them all ourselves; not indeed as we ought, but yet in some degree. And we speak of them because we expect you to sympathise with us in the matter, and because we know that in proportion as our sympathies are drawn out towards one another, so will our prayers ascend for one another; and so shall we receive that heavenly wisdom which alone can save us from every foe,—that humble, childlike faith which will keep us near the Saviour, following Him step by step in the path of duty,