

fant. A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentations and bitter weeping; Rachel, weeping for her children, refused to be comforted, because they were not. Thus saith the Lord, *'Refrain thy voice from weeping and thine eyes from tears, for there is hope in thine end, saith the Lord, that thy children shall come again to their own border.** It is not the will of your heavenly Father that one of these little ones should perish.†

Is it a pious Friend that has just yielded up his breath? The same voice seems to say, *'Turn from him, or rather turn from his clay—his faded garment.—He himself is taken from the evil to come;—He is entered into peace.†*

When the able minister, the exemplary parent, or the faithful partner departs, a consternation often seizes the circles which they blessed. We are so stunned by the sudden blow, or occupied with the distressing circumstances, that we scarcely can hear God saying, *'Fear not, I, even I, am he that comforteth*

* Jer. xv. 17. † Matt. xviii. 14. † Isa. lvii. 12.