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JOHN FREDERIC OBERLIN,

PASTOR OF WALDBACH, IN THE BAN DE LA ROCHE.

Some of our readers are acquainted already with the history of this remarkable man; but the greater number probably are not, and all should be. We therefore present the following outline of one of the most exemplary characters that modern times have known.

John Frederic Oberlin was born at Strasburg,* in Germany, on the 31st August, 1740; and from his childhood was remarkable for the benevolence and gentleness of his disposition, of which several pleasing instances are related in the longer accounts of his life. These early feelings were encouraged by the wise instruction and good example of his parents. To his pious mother he often acknowledged himself indebted for his love of the "things that are excellent," and for the desires he afterwards felt to do good. She brought up her children "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." She practised a plan which it would be well for all parents substantially to follow. Assembling her children

every evening, she read aloud to them some instructive book, while they sat round the table, copying pictures which their father had drawn for them. On separating, a hymn was sung and a prayer presented; and thus they were led to him who said, "Suffer little children to come unto me."

Frederic had deep convictions of sin in early life, mingled with emotions of love to God; and he spent much of his time in fervent prayer. At a proper age he entered the University as a theological student. He attended the ministry of one who preached with great earnestness a crucified Saviour, and derived from it much spiritual advantage. At the age of twenty he solemnly devoted himself, by a written covenant, to the service of God.

Having finished his studies at the University, and been ordained to the ministry, he became private tutor in the family of a physician, where he learned much of the practice of Medicine, which was very useful to him in his future course. A chaplaincy

* Now belonging to France.