

LADY JANE GREY.

The following is a translation of a letter written by Lady Jane Grey, to her sister, the evening before she was beheaded in the Tower. It was written in Greek, on the blank leaves of a New Testament in the same language, which she bequeathed as a legacy to her sister the Lady Catharine :

"I have here sent you, my dear Catharine, a book which, though it be not externally adorned with gold, or the curious embroidery of the most artful needles, yet internally it is of more value than all the precious mines the wide world can boast of. It is the book, my only, best, and best beloved sister, of the law of our great Redeemer. It is the testimony and last will which he bequeathed to us wretches and wretched sinners, to lead us in the path of eternal happiness; and if you read it with an attentive mind, and an earnest desire of following its precepts, it will surely bring you to an immortal and everlasting life. It will teach you to live, and learn you to die; it will win you more and endow you with greater felicity, than you could have gained by possessing the estates of our afflicted father; and as you would have inherited his honours and estates, had the Almighty prospered his undertakings; so, if you apply diligently to this book, labouring to direct your life according to the rule it contains, you shall be an inheritor of such riches as neither the covetous can withdraw from you, the thief steal, nor the moth corrupt. Desire with David, my best sister, to understand the law of the Lord your God; live still to die, that you may by death obtain eternal life; and

flatter not yourself that the tenderness of your age shall lengthen your days; for all hours, times, and seasons, are alike to the Almighty when he calleth; and blessed are they whose lamps are furnished when he cometh; the Lord will be equally glorified in the young as in the old. My good sister, once more let me entreat you to learn to die; deny the world, defy the devil, despise the flesh, and delight yourself in the Lord; be penitent for your sins, but do not despair; be strong in faith, but do not presume; and desire with St. Paul to be dissolved, and to be with Christ, with whom even in death, there is life. Imitate the good servant, and even at midnight be waking; lest when death stealeth upon you, like a thief in the night, you be found sleeping with the servants of darkness; and lest, for want of oil, like the foolish virgins, you be refused admittance to the marriage supper; or like him who had not on the wedding garment, be cast out into outer darkness

"Rejoice in the Redeemer of mankind, as I trust you do; and as you have taken the name of Christian, follow as near as possible the steps and be a true imitator of your great Master Christ Jesus; take up your cross, lay your sins on his shoulders and always embrace him.

"With regard to my death, rejoice as I do, my dearest sister, that I shall be delivered from this body of corruption, and clothed with the garment of incorruption: for I am assured that I shall, by losing this mortal life, obtain one that is immortal, joyful, and everlasting; which I pray the Almighty to grant you, whenever he shall please