

His disposition is amiable and unassuming, and his manners are those of a gentleman. My whole intercourse with him has led me to form the very highest opinion of him as a scholar, a gentleman and a Christian," &c.

Such attestations from competent judges in the fatherland verify the opinion formed of Mr. Riddell by all who had the happiness of intimate think favorably of the principles and the power that made him so *likeable*. He had a cordial detestation of everything that savored of deceit, or guile, or insincerity; and, to human seeming, he was utterly devoid of these sadly common characteristics of fallen man. In him uprightness or moral honesty and conscientiousness were remarkably prominent and potential,—as much so as in any good man it has ever been the writer's happiness to know. That imperfections clung to him he would have been the foremost to admit and mourn, but that they were unusually difficult of discovery by others will be readily admitted by those who knew him most intimately. No doubt he was naturally amiable,—suavity was constitutional in his case: but it was "by the grace of God he was what he was." At a comparatively early period of life he had "submitted himself to the righteousness of God, which is by faith of Jesus Christ," and through grace was enabled in his subsequent life to verify afresh the unassailable utterance of the poet, that "*the Christian is the highest style of man.*" Indeed, wanting divine grace, the most amiable of human kind would at best but resemble a tree destitute alike of fruit and foliage, that neither gratifies the eye in search of the beautiful, nor meets the need of the hungry traveller.

Of Mr. Riddell it may be further and safely said that he was a man of excellent mind, as well as of loving heart, and most exemplary life. His intellectual powers were good, and wonderfully well balanced, no one dwarfing or paralyzing another; and they had been carefully and assiduously cultivated. His acquirements in the various departments of study usually prosecuted by candidates for the ministry were highly respectable, of which the writer has ample evidence in a dozen certificates lying before him, written by clergymen and scholars of the highest standing in Scotland. Indeed he could hardly by possibility have failed to succeed in his studies, possessing as he did, in high degree, most of the essential pre-requisites to success, viz., a quick and sound judgment, love of order and accuracy, and untiring conscientious diligence. Whatever he did he did well. Superficiality he could not away with. His scholarship was accurate and comparatively wide, including, perhaps, more of the philosophical and scientific questions of the day than most of our ministers choose to investigate. But, as some readers may suspect that the foregoing statements are the too favorable utterances of an admiring friend, it might be well to quote a few sentences from the certificates already referred to, all of which speak of him in terms quite as laudatory as those here employed. It is proper to premise, that Mr. Riddell was a candidate for the office of Librarian to the Theological Hall, Edinburgh, and that the testimonials were given with a view to that office. The Rev. Dr. Smith, Biggar, and the Rev. Dr. Andrew Thompson, Edinburgh, speak of him in language expressive of the highest commendation—as indeed the whole of the testators do. To quote all they say would be to the honor of the deceased. But space forbids. A few sentences must suffice. The Rev. James Robertson, Newington, Edinburgh, a scholarly man and a most devoted and successful minister, and Mr. Riddell's pastor during his attendance at College and the Divinity Hall, says:—"I have had personal acquaintance and very frequent intercourse with Mr. George Riddell for seven or eight years, and all my impressions