

Our departed Brother, was one of that favoured number who knew from his childhood "those holy Scriptures which are able to make us wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."* He was early taught to cherish feelings of deep veneration for the word of God. When about sixteen years of age, however, he was led, under divine teaching, to apply the testimony of that word more pointedly to his own case, to perceive with greater clearness the value of his soul, and to seek at a throne of grace a personal interest in the salvation of Christ. From this period faith began to display its decided influence upon the life. Though young, and surrounded, while pursuing his Academic studies, by gay and youthful companions, he "walked with God,"† and "kept himself unspotted from the world."‡ Some perhaps of those companions may now be listening to me, and could testify if it were permitted them, to the steadfast consistency of his walk.

The wise Disposer of events decreed that walk to be short. At a brief interval from the time I have alluded to, he visited him with an illness, which human care and skill could alleviate, but not arrest. Three years of gradual declension supervened. They were years of bodily decline but spiritual growth. At home and abroad, in this and in other lands, among strangers and friends, amid the serious and amid the worldly, one uniform character was maintained, the character of one who knew his accountability to God, who practically felt, that "the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal."§

In the last stage of his illness however, a marked advancement in grace became apparent. A deeper acquaintance with the heart was evinced. A clearer view of the holiness and majesty of God was present

* 2 Tim. 3. 15.

† Gen. 5. 24.

‡ James 1. 27.

§ 2 Cor. 4. 18.