

in all companies, that those only who have had the happiness of meeting him often in society, can form a just conception of the pleasure of his presence.

But highly as this excellent man was to be admired and loved for his engaging manners and virtuous sentiments, the exalted qualities which dignified his moral nature are still more worthy of approbation. These were the gems which shed around his character, that lustre which made him so great a favorite. A strict probity and inviolable love of truth were perhaps the most prominent of his moral virtues. From these his conduct derived such a purity and elevation, as could only spring from a mind in which the finest sensibilities of virtue had ever remained uncontaminated by the consciousness of dishonor. To transmit this precious inheritance to his children by precept and example was the principal study of his life, and to secure to them the permanent enjoyment of this valuable deposit, he labored unceasingly to inculcate that which he truly deemed the foundation of every virtue—the principle of religion.

His was not a religion of speculation, but a rule of life which governed all his actions, and not only extended its purifying powers to his intercourse with the world, but it penetrated the retirement of the closet and the secret recesses of the heart. Of christian charities, his breast was peculiarly susceptible; he was the friend of the widow—the orphan and of those who have no helpers, and his regard was powerfully excited by every resemblance to Divine goodness, so that to the man possessed of moral worth he was irresistibly drawn as to a brother. But while his benevolence thus extended to all surrounding objects, its flame became more warm and bright to those who were most near; and in the relations of husband, parent and friend, all the kindlier affections of his nature were kindled to their highest fervour.

It was indeed, his lot to experience many afflicting dispensations in that quarter where his tenderest affections were engaged; but here the consolations of christian hope and the unshaken assurance of Divine goodness were his refuge and support, and while he bowed in resigned submission to that searching discipline with which it was the good pleasure of his God to exercise his faith, he turned with grateful contentment to those blessings which he was yet permitted to enjoy, and which he continued with pious thankfulness and quickened sensibility to cherish and improve to the last moment of his earthly existence.

Thus the severity of his trials proved the stability of his virtue and his probationary sorrows, by softening his devotion and refining his best disposition, served only to render him better prepared for the felicities of another world. He was a Christian without guile—affable and polished in his manners, courteous in his conversation—dignified in his deportment—warm in his affections—steady in his friendship and unshaken in his principles. The great object of his life was usefulness, and the spring of all his actions was religion.—With scarcely a failing to cast a shade over the collective splendour of the estimable endowments which were united in his character and conduct, who that knew him can avoid dwelling upon his memory with a sorrowful joy, and feeling that a great blank has been made in our social circle, and that one of the most worthy of our Elders has been gathered to his Fathers.

OUR last number contained an account of Mr. Davidson's Son and Daughter, who were drowned in the Bay. It is now our painful duty to state, that in consequence of the irreparable blank, thus suddenly and awfully effected, in the family circle, Mr. D. was buried on the 7th, having drooped and died of a broken heart, for the absence of his little darlings, whose company he sighed for, and hath gone to enjoy. No fear of destitution is entertained for his remaining family, for—they reside in York.