

THE LATE MISS JANE MURDOCH.

In announcing the death of Miss Jane Murdoch, which took place at the Scotch Line, Verulam, on the 25th November last, and giving a short sketch of her character, the object is not to eulogize her as an individual, or make a display of her before the Church—for no one could be more averse to ostentatious display than she—but to furnish another example of the power of grace, in producing Christian excellence, and showing how, by his grace, God qualifies his people for shining as lights in the world for his own glory and the world's benefit. The most valuable commentary on the statements of divine truth and the character of the gospel is to be found in the holy and consistent lives of the godly. Miss M. was born in Glasgow in 1818, and was the eldest of six children, whose mother died when the subject of this notice was about 13 years of age. She was thus left, at an early age, with her father, to act as mother to the young family. In this capacity she seems, from the testimony of those who knew her in her early years, to have acted with exemplary propriety, until four of the family obtained households of their own. Ultimately she was left alone, her father's unmarried brother having died a few years ago. She has been personally known to the writer of these lines only for 12 years. In view of the above statements it is not to be wondered at, that her surviving brothers and sisters, with their families, regarded her with affectionate reverence, and showed every attention during her somewhat protracted illness. Possessing a mind of no small vigour, and giving clear evidence of being under the influence of firm and decided Christian principle, she had great pleasure in reading, especially such writings as those of Mr. Cheyne. She also took a deep interest in the prosperity of Christ's kingdom, and regularly subscribed for the Missionary Record. She took obvious pleasure in the public services of the sanctuary—for she was never absent until disease confined her to bed—walking at least 2 miles even in very unfavourable weather. Moreover, she gave expression to her feelings, not by words, for though she possessed a warm heart and a cheerful countenance, she was by no means communicative, but by her deeds of liberality. In this sense she communicated largely according to her means. In reference to the latter, all that could be said was, that, with proper management and economy, she had nothing more than a comfortable competence, and to secure this her own industry and effort were required. She nevertheless contributed liberally to uphold and advance the Redeemer's cause. Feeling a deep interest in Mr. Nesbit's schools for educating young Indians, she, of her own accord and without any special solicitation, sent several annual contributions for their support, showing how she watched for opportunities to do good. Many would have said, I have to contribute towards the minister's salary and the various schemes of the Church; I think I do quite enough; let others, who are wealthy, assist the Indian mission. Such a rule had no place in her Christian arithmetic. There was in this involved a great practical principle. Instead of allowing herself to be regulated by the conduct of others, she showed a noble independence of thought, and acted according to her own Christian impulses and sense of duty. A desire to see Christ's cause prosper both at home and abroad had a ruling place in her heart, and she sought to gratify that desire by being always ready to contribute her mite for that end. While others, with perhaps ten times her means, were probably looking coldly on, and excusing themselves by cherishing the fancy that they were poor—and, with sorrow be it said, we