

or more heartily raised his voice in giving glory to him who alone giveth the increase.

XII. PERSONAL AND DOMESTIC HISTORY.

Having thus briefly sketched his chief public efforts, we must briefly refer to his personal and domestic history. Upon this there is not much to record. Of his religious history we can say but little. He kept no diary and he did not proclaim his piety on the housetops, by an ostentatious declaration of his "experience." But his close walk with God and his growing likeness to the Saviour were clearly manifest. Those who knew him intimately knew best how close his daily communion with his heavenly father. But to all who came in contact with him, it was evident that his path like that of the just, was shining more and more unto the perfect day. We have heard it said that in youth his temper was quick. If so grace enabled him to subdue it so entirely, that he was distinguished for his Christian meekness—but all the features of the Christian character were exhibited in increasing brilliancy, so as to be known and read of all men.

He was never a very strong man, and some thirty years ago he exhibited signs of failing strength, which alarmed his friends. But from this he recovered and through the greater part of his ministerial career, he enjoyed an amount of health, which enabled him to discharge the duties of the ministry with an uninterrupted regularity, such as has been rarely exhibited. "It is worthy of being remembered, here also," he remarked at his Jubilee "as no ordinary ground of thankfulness that during the whole of this long period, (of fifty years) I have not been prevented by sickness, but only upon two occasions, from preaching every Lord's day, and at all other times, when called in Providence to the performance of the duty." We may mention that one of these occasions was after he had passed his 77th year.

We do not feel it necessary to draw aside the veil from his private life, and to expose to public view his appearance in his family. It is sufficient to say that in this relation he exhibited a pattern of the same Christian virtues, as distinguished him in every other walk of life. It has been the case that some excellent men have failed here. But Dr Keir's Christian excellence appeared not so much in the towering eminence of any one feature of character, as in the harmony and proportion in which all the Christian virtues were exhibited. He exhibited not the qualities which make a man extraordinary in one position, but that well balanced state of mind and spirit, which renders a man the object of esteem in all the relations of life. And we say from frequent and favourable opportunities of judging, that those who would see Dr. Keir in his most endearing aspects—those who would have learned how loveable a man he was, and would fully appreciate his excellence, required to see him in the bosom of his family.—It behoved them to observe him as the faithful prophet, priest, and king of that circle—to behold him as the tender husband and the faithful counsellor—as the affectionate father and guide of the young—to mark his firmness in resisting and reproving wrong,