

them—"The righteous perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart."

"It is very true that it has not been our practice in this place to attempt a delineation of the character of those who from time to time are removed from amongst us to an eternal world. But it is to be borne in mind that an Elder is public property; and, this being the case, surely we may be excused for endeavouring to pay some tribute of respect to the memory of one, whose history as an office-bearer in this church is to be identified with the history of the congregation itself. It is now nearly 25 years since he, who died in the Lord on Tuesday last, was set apart to the holy office of the eldership, being ordained the 9th of January, 1834; and his memory must ever be connected in the minds of the members of this congregation with the most deeply interesting of their associations. Nor was the deceased connected with this congregation only as an Elder. As a trustee and manager, he was led to take a part in regulating its temporal affairs. And we might safely leave it to yourselves to say in what way he discharged his duties in both these offices. Whatever may have been the subject of dispute—or whatever diversity of opinion may have existed, as to the best means of promoting the interests and welfare of the congregation, throughout the course of its history from the time of its organisation—we have not heard that any have ever ventured to call in question the eminence of his services. On the contrary, was it not the case that by a continued series of praise-worthy exertions, and by an unremitted perseverance in well-doing on your behalf he acquired such a degree of influence over you all, as that you felt that the utmost deference was due to his opinion on all occasion of difficulty? Have you not even delighted to pay to the worth and excellence of his character—as manifested in the two-fold capacity of Elder and Manager—the unbought tribute of respect and esteem?"

"Nor was it only as an Office-bearer in this congregation that the deceased won the respect and the gratitude of those around him. As your representative Elder, he not unfrequently took part in the superior Church Courts, and an interest in the general concerns of the body to which we professedly belong. It is doubtless creditable to his memory that, along with one other member of the Legislative Council, he received the thanks of the Synod within the current year, for his exertions on behalf of the interests of this Church—especially during the last session of Parliament, and that he should be deemed worthy of being one of 5 commissioners appointed with full power, to give the formal sanction of the Synod to what is known as the Commutation Scheme—a scheme which is now happily effected, and which promises to prove a blessing, not only to the people of our days but likewise to generations yet unborn."

"But this is not all: It was not only as an Office-bearer in this congregation, or in connection with the general interests of the Church, that the deceased distinguished himself. Though he came to this country and to this neighbourhood without any of the means of acquiring adventitious distinction, he gradually attained a marked ascendancy in the community among whom his lot was cast. This was probably owing to that good sense which he possessed in such a remarkable degree, to that prudence and caution which he exercised, and which were the fruits of that masculine understanding with which he was naturally endowed. It is not unworthy of notice, moreover, that without sacrificing any of his dignity, without any artifice or flattery he had a won-

derful facility of accommodating himself to all sorts of society, and of rendering himself acceptable to all classes. But it was to those who have to labour with their hands for their daily bread, that he manifested himself a special friend. This may have been more obvious at that period when there were in this locality few men of enterprise besides himself; but even latterly, or during the last few years of his life, such was his activity of mind, strengthened by habit, that through his instrumentality the temporal happiness of many a family was greatly promoted; and, we are persuaded, that, much as his death may be lamented by the public in general, his loss will be deeply felt by the class to whom we have just alluded. One of our oldest trees has indeed fallen, whose luxuriant branches afforded shelter and comfort to not a few households.

"As to the mode of conducting his business which was adopted and strictly acted upon by the deceased, I shall say nothing but simply this, that I do believe that the public possessed the utmost confidence in his integrity. His probity, so far as I know, was never suspected. It was admitted by all that he was strictly, even in the broadest sense of the term, a straightforward, honest man."

"As to the personal piety of him, whose loss we this day lament, there could be no doubt. At what period of his life he became a converted man we have no means of knowing; but not a few of you know better than I do to what extent he exhibited, during the course of a long residence amongst you, the fruits of a living faith. It was during the period of his illness, however, that the strength of his faith became more apparent. It is most true that to pass judgment on one's character and state in the sight of God, from feelings expressed under the languor of disease, and from expressions uttered amid the pains of dissolving nature, were unwarrantable temerity, inasmuch as the tastes, the sentiments, the pursuits, of habitual life make up character, and in general indicate our actual state; and on these generally ought our opinion to be grounded, in as far as it belongs to us to decide. Nevertheless on the approach of death we anxiously look for indications of interest in the Saviour, and in the case before us these were very ample. On being informed of the dangerous character of the disease with which he was afflicted, and of the probability of its soon proving fatal, the deceased calmly and deliberately set his house in order like one who knew and felt that the time was at hand when he would be no longer steward. He then directed much of his time and thoughts to the things of eternity, and, although he sometimes expressed a wish to remain somewhat longer here, for the sake of those whom he deeply loved, yet his language was that of perfect resignation to the will of the Almighty; and he seemed to feel, to realize the thought that, lovely as the scene was immediately around him, it was not to be compared to the green pastures and the still waters of the Paradise above. His last hours were hours of extreme pain and weakness; but they were much devoted to prayer; and the last words which he was heard distinctly to utter were an invitation to his weeping family around him to unite in supplication for his soul. Shortly after he died calmly in body and in mind, testifying as by a voice out of Heaven how holy and righteous the ways of God are with His children, how great their peace is, how inviolable their security."

"By the death of him, whom we last Thursday consigned to the grave, you have

sustained a severe loss, and I have been bereaved of a friend. But is it not consolatory to think that, when situated as we this day are, death is not an eternal sleep, that he, whom we dread as the spoiler of our friendship, is but the messenger who conveys the departed to the realms of bliss. And having before us another lesson, of which we have recently had so many, as to the uncertainty of life, how anxious should we be that we ourselves may not by our carelessness or by impenitence be cast out, whilst those for whom we mourn, are permitted to enter into peace and to walk in their own uprightness in the presence of Jesus and before the Throne of God."

My own Work.

There is work for all of us; and there is special work for each. It is work not for societies or alliances, but it is work for individual minds and hands. It is work which I cannot do in a crowd, or as one of a mass, but as one man acting singly, according to my own gifts, and under a sense of my personal responsibilities. There is, no doubt, associated work for me to do; I must do my work as part of the world's great whole, or as a member of some body. But I have special work to do as one individual, who, by God's plan and appointment, have a separate position and also a separate work—a work which, if I do not do it, must be left undone. No one of my fellows can do that special work for me which I have come into the world to do. He may do a higher work and a greater work—but he cannot do my work. I cannot hand my work over to him, any more than I can hand over my responsibilities or my gifts. Nor can I delegate my work to any association of men, however well ordered and powerful. They have their own work to do, and it may be a very noble one, but they cannot do my work for me. I must do it with these hands and with these lips, which God has given me. I may do little; I may do much, that matters not; it must be my own work. And by doing my own work, poor as it may seem to some, I shall better fulfil God's end in making me what I am, and more truly glorify his name, than if I were ever going out of my sphere to do the work of another, or calling another into my sphere, to do my proper work for me. The low grass that is not the branching elm, nor is the fragrant rose; but it has a position to occupy, and a work to do, in the arrangements of God for this earth of ours, which neither elm nor rose can undertake.

Besides, I have a crown to win; and who can win it for me? I cannot reach it through the toil of another, through the operations of any society of men. I must win it for myself. No fellow-man can wear it for me, and no fellow-man can win it for me. I must press forward to the mark for the prize of high calling. My right of entrance into the kingdom has, I know, been won for me by the Son of God. That was a work for him alone to do. And he has done it! I owe my deliverance to his blood alone—I owe my acceptance to his righteousness alone. But still there remains for me a race to run, a prize to secure. And therefore must I work without ceasing, with my eye upon the glory to be revealed when the Lord returns; forgetting what is behind, reaching on to what is before, "if that by any means I may attain unto the resurrection of the dead."