

an easy exercise, while not having ever before been called on for a speech, he could not play the orator at all.

No man could enjoy with greater zest than Mr. Irving, such harmless incidents as these. But this is a point in his character on which I must not further dwell.

He was singularly quick in detecting character. All who were intimately acquainted with him, will bear testimony to this fact. A very short conversation with a stranger served, in most cases, to enable him to perceive the peculiarities of that stranger's mind.

Nor was the readiness and distinctness with which he afterwards recognised individuals with whom he once met, less a matter of surprise. I have been assured by some of his friends, that notwithstanding the vast number of persons he came in contact with, when at the height of his popularity, he never met any of them a second time without recognising them at once. I myself knew a striking instance of his readiness at recollecting persons with whom he had once met. A young man who had a short time before come up from the country, met with him one day accidentally, and was a short time in his company. About twelve months afterwards, this young man proceeding along Cheapside at a rapid pace, when Mr. Irving, meeting him in that crowded thoroughfare, at once recognised and noticed him.

The extraordinary quickness of his eye was often shown in another way. At the time that the average attendance at Newman Street Chapel was upwards of two thousand, he would at once miss any of his members, even poor servant girls, who were absent from worship. And if absent two Sabbath-days in succession, his practice was to send one of the officers of the church to visit and pray with them.

He was a man of great generosity of mind. He was not only incapable of an unworthy action, but I am persuaded, he never even harboured an ungenerous thought. How striking the contrast between his conduct to other metropolitan ministers, and the conduct of many of those ministers towards him! While they were regarding him with feelings the opposite of friendly, he was,

though they knew it not, in many cases doing them a positive service, by urgently advising, as if it were an act of personal friendship to himself, those of their hearers who wished to become members of his church, to remain where they were. Many instances of this kind consist with my own private knowledge. Mr. Irving knew how painful to the feelings, and how discouraging to the minds of ministers it is, when their members leave them and join some other church in the same place, perhaps in the same neighborhood: and to spare them such feelings, as far as lay in his power, was at all times his most anxious desire.

The nearer death approached, and the more he felt assured that the time of his departure was at hand, the greater did his peace of mind become. He looked forward to the change with the calm confidence of one who knew in whom he believed—who felt that his feet were standing on the Rock of Ages, and that all his hopes rested on the broad and immutable basis of the atonement of Christ.—The last religious exercise of any length in which he was able to engage, was to read, in Hebrew, in conjunction with his father-in-law, the Rev. Mr. Martin, the twenty-third Psalm. In about six hours afterwards he passed through the valley and shadow of death of which he had been reading, fearing no ill, but realizing the blessed truth, "Thy staff and thy rod, they comfort me."

Thus, in 1834, died Edward Irving, leaving few if any greater or better men behind him. Who would not shed a tear upon the grave of one who possessed so colossal a mind, and who devoted all its mighty energies to the promotion of the present and eternal well-being of his fellow men?—Who would not revere the memory of one who drank so deeply into the spirit of his Divine Master, and trod so closely in his foot steps,—one whose life was as spotless as his breast was pure,—one who at a time when he enjoyed a popularity which has rarely been equalled, never surpassed, and was run after and idolized by the most illustrious in rank and the most distinguished in literature, exhibited in all the intercourse of life, the humility, the tenderness, and simplicity of a child,

## REMARKS ON THE PROPOSED PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE AT KINGSTON.

In our last number we inserted the Address by the Commission of our Synod to the Presbyterians in these provinces, soliciting their aid in the institution of a College, "for the education of youth, and particularly for the education of candidates for the holy ministry." The object is one so truly excellent, that we confess we have for many years desired to see it undertaken, and now that our highest church judicatory in these parts, after the maturest deliberation, and after consulting the Committee of the General Assembly, as well as the Secretaries of the Glasgow Society at home, have

resolved on the establishment of such a Seminary, we doubt not all the friends of our church, in both provinces, will enter heart and hand into the work, that what has been so nobly planned may be successfully executed. The object of the proposed College is two-fold,—to furnish education to the rising youth of our people, based on scriptural principles, and to rear native ministers to supply our spiritual destitution. And these are objects we think which must commend themselves to every reflecting person, as well for their connection with the present as with the future well-being of our