

SERMON.

"HE WAS A BURNING AND A SHINING LIGHT, AND YE WERE WILLING, FOR A SEASON, TO REJOICE IN HIS LIGHT."—*John v., 35.*

THIS statement was made by the Son of GOD respecting John the Baptist, who was promised and sent as "the Messenger" of the Messiah, "to prepare the way before him." John had now probably finished his course, and his day was ended. He had been a faithful servant, and sealed his ministry with his blood, for he died a martyr's death. And he to whom he had borne witness now bears an honourable testimony in return, describing him, as to his character and office, as "a burning and a shining light."

It is always pleasing to hear the testimony of a master to the worth of a departed servant; but far more interesting is it to contemplate the character given, and the approbation manifested by the Saviour of the world to his beloved ministers. And what an enviable monument is here raised by the Saviour to the memory of John the Baptist! What an appropriate and expressive epitaph is the text to record the excellence of a departed Servant of GOD, both to those who had valued, and to those that had not improved his faithful ministry! "He was a burning and a shining light."