

are extinguished :—no longer the playing boys usurp the thoroughfares of business; and nought but the lonely passenger's footfall on the deserted pave, breaks the stillness. The houses rise, on each side, dark and silent as the cliffs of a mountain ravine ;—but how much more romantic than any such ravine is the avenue of the streets : on either side, mute, dark, as if immured in tombs, lie the population of the commonwealth ? The image of death has obtained possession of them, but the resurrection of the coming morn is confidently expected, and the deep gloom of death does not attend its image. What a collection of all that is precious in life is ranged on each hand : families amid their possessions, enjoying the comforts and securities of civilization, when all living signs of that civilization have disappeared.

Who watches over the sleepers ? Who represses the emissaries of the powers of darkness in this their hour ? Who provides for the wonderful renovations of sleep, and for the renewed life at the balmy dawn ? Who has ordered this mysterious state of things—mysterious, yet seeming simple from its frequent recurrence—in which half darkness and half light, half the repose of death, and half the activity of life, make man's existence ? Instead of this delightful round of days and nights, each one a life and death in miniature,—why not one unbroken state of activity, one sudden step to dissolution ?

Wherever the watcher is,—whether on the lonely mountain, in the precincts of the balmy hamlet, or in the sleeping city's centre, one magnificent object is prepared by night, for his contemplation ; one scene unspeakably grand, visible to his sense, yet baffling the utmost vigour of his soul :—the *Starry Heavens*,—the system of suns, and moons, and worlds, amid which, the vast earth moves—a speck in creation, and which, in their natures and uses and destinies, are so supremely attractive and sublime. Yon twinkling star is a world, no doubt, inhabited ;—by whom ? Will we ever know, will another state of things familiarise us with its scenes ? That other more glowing spark is a mighty sun ! What moons does it illumine, what worlds does it vivify ?

What an atom does man shrink into, as he contemplates those mighty works,—until he recollects the energies of his aspiring intellect. Pride is crushed, but self-respect and dignity are exalted ; a feeling of bodily imbecility is overcome by the expansion of that emanation, within, which proceeded from Him who dwelleth in unimaginable glory, and whose goodness is as unlimited as his power.—*Selected.*

SELMO.

Obituary.

MISS E. THOMPSON.

DIED, at Cornwallis, on the 5th day of January last, Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Mr. Elijah Thompson, aged seventeen years. She was a child of an amiable disposition and unassuming manners, and consequently had much endeared herself to her parents, and all

who knew her. From these and other circumstances her fond parents were naturally induced to look forward to her approaching maturity, with feelings of pleasing anticipation ;—but, alas ! they, like many others, were doomed to feel a mournful disappointment. Elizabeth, when a child, was very healthy, but for several months previously to her decease, had been the subject of various complaints, which terminated in a dropsy and an internal ulcer. That her sufferings were great will be readily believed ; but that she bore them with patience and resignation to the divine will, I have much pleasure in recording, although she was three times obliged to submit to surgical operations.

My first visit to her was immediately after the first of these operations. She was extremely weak, and presented an affecting sight for the contemplation of a parent ; but my visit to her was one of mercy, and to relieve as much as possible the extreme anxiety of her afflicted friends, relative to her eternal welfare. " Ah ! Sir," said they, " we have given up all hopes of our daughter living ; all we long for is to know that she is going to a better inheritance." Elizabeth was indeed a stranger to experimental religion ; though amiable in disposition she was as yet unconcerned in heart ; I was happy to find that she felt herself a sinner, and sincerely desirous of obtaining the mercy of the Lord Jesus. It was therefore my pleasing duty to assure her, by reference to the word of God and the experience of others, that Jesus Christ was now willing to pardon all her past sins, and adopt her into his heavenly family ; and further, that the happiness consequent thereon would far exceed any thing which she could previously conceive. From the liberty I felt while pleading her cause at the throne of the heavenly grace, I was assured that the Lord would hear prayer in her behalf, and communicate to her soul the blessing she needed.

She partially recovered from her extreme weakness, and I had the opportunity of several communications with her, on the great concerns of her soul. Although her mind appeared to be increasingly susceptible of religious influence, yet there was not that clear and decisive change of heart which we earnestly desire to behold in all that are so nearly approaching the eternal world. However, after a third operation had been performed, she became so fully convinced that she had but a few days to remain on this side eternity, that she cried earnestly to God for the salvation of her soul. He soon manifested his willingness to save, by inspiring her with confidence in the atoning blood ; she was enabled to believe with her heart unto righteousness, and to declare that God, for Christ's sake, had forgiven all her sins.

Knowing the extreme anxiety of her father for her spiritual welfare, she communicated the pleasing news to him in appropriate and unequivocal language, assuring them she was now truly happy in her soul, and was not afraid to die. She praised and blessed the name of the Lord, for his many mercies towards her, and encouraged others to do the same. This happy event took place six days before her death ; so that she