

to preach the pulpit vacant, on the 16th June. On that day, Mr. Cassie, in his ordinary health, preached at Perry Town and Oakhill. On the 18th, he suffered from a pain which had for a length of time indicated disease of the heart. On the 19th, feeling better, he was in his garden about six o'clock in the morning, when, after speaking in his usual cheerful manner to a person passing to his work, he was seen to fall, and in a few minutes, without further consciousness and without a struggle, his spirit passed away.

On the Sabbath after his death, the Rev. Dr. Thornton, of Whitby, preached to the sorrowing congregation, from Phil. i. 21,—“For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”

Dr. Thornton being better qualified from his long intimacy with Mr. Cassie, to form a correct estimate of his character and worth than we are, we have much pleasure in giving the following extract from his sermon:—

“If then Christ is the believer's life, and if dying *in him* be gain, how happy and how desirable must it be to be connected with Him by a living faith! for the union cannot be dissolved by death, and nothing beyond the grave can separate between them and Him. Death breaks up all earthly relations, but effects no change in the relationship between Christ and them that are His. He continues to be the Head, and they the living members. Although the dust of the saint appears to lie neglected in the grave, yet even there it sleeps in Jesus; and this apostle assures us, that ‘them that sleep in Jesus, will God bring with him.’ In prospect then of that eternal gain which believers shall ere long reap, they may with holy confidence even now join in the triumphant shout, ‘O Death, where is thy sting? O Grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who giveth us the victory, through our Lord Jesus Christ.’

“Again, if death is the believer's gain, it is not only foolish but sinful for those bereaved of Christian friends to indulge in inconsolable grief. The bitterness of death is with these loved ones past, and happiness is their inalienable portion. Their gain is permanent: and surely genuine love cannot wish them back again to a scene of such manifold afflictions,—afflictions never ‘joyous but grievous.’ And to those here, bereaved of an earthly companion and head, a faithful friend, or a beloved pastor, I would address the counsel,—‘Be ye followers of them who, through faith and patience, inherit the promises.’

“I have selected the interesting theme from which I now address you, from a conviction that is specially applicable to our present circumstances, and peculiarly so in regard to *him* who had been so recently, and in a manner, so startling, removed from your midst.

“No one, I think, could know your late pastor as a man, still less as a minister; and fail to be convinced that it was at once his aim and his experience to ‘live to Christ.’ Christ he uniformly and earnest-