

And his example and success with regard to one duty in special, may be of great use to both ministers and private christians : I mean the duty of secret fasting. The reader has seen how much Mr. Brainerd recommends this duty, how frequently he exercised himself in it, and of what great benefit it evidently was to his soul. Among all the days he spent in secret fasting and prayer, there is scarce an instance of one, but what was attended with apparent success, and a remarkable blessing, in special incomes and consolations of God's spirit.—But it must be observed, that when he set about this duty he did it in good earnest ; “ stirring up himself to take hold of God,” and “ continuing instant in prayer.” with much of the spirit of Jacob, who said to the angel, “ I will not let thee go, except thou blest me.”

V. One thing more may be observed in the preceding account of Mr. Brainerd ; and that is the remarkable disposal of divine providence, with respect to the circumstances of his last sickness and death.

Though he had been long infirm, his constitution being much broken by his fatigues and hardships ; and though he was often brought very low by illness, yet his life was preserved, till he had seen that which he had so long and greatly desired, a glorious work of grace among the Indians.

And though it was the pleasure of God, that he should be taken off from his labours among that people, who were so dear to him ; yet this was not before they were well instructed in the christian religion, confirmed and fixed in the christian faith and manners, formed into a church ; brought into a good way with respect to the education of children ; collected in a town by themselves, on a good piece of land of their own ; and introduced into the way of living by husbandry. These things were but just brought to pass by his indefatigable application, and then he was taken off from his work. If this had been but a little sooner, they would by no means have