

and gone to heaven, as I trust, came to my mind. Well, I thought if I should live to get hearty once more, I would mend my ways. As I began to gain some, my good resolutions began to fail; but just then Mr Howard, hearing I was sick, came to see me, and talked to me about my soul. As he was getting ready to go away, I said something about bringing out when I got well. Mr. H. said he would hire me; but if I lived with him I must give up sabbath breaking and drinking. So I promised to do this, and when I got well I came to live with him, and by God's blessing upon his endeavours, I was able to keep my sick-bed resolutions."

"Did you not," inquired Edward, "find it somewhat difficult to relinquish hard drinking?"

"At first, sir, I did. But as Mr. Howard used to come on the farm, I soon began to lose my taste for strong drink."

"You do not, then," said Edward to Mr. H., "follow the general practice, even among professors of religion, of using ardent spirits on your farm?"

"No," answered Mr. H., "not even in harvest time. I substitute some mild liquid, and from actual trial I find my hands do as much work for me even in harvest time, when they have no spiritous liquor, as when they have."

"I have heard it objected," remarked Edward, "that it would be impossible to procure help in harvest, if you did not furnish liquor."

"I have never found any difficulty," answered Mr. H. "Good wages, sure pay, plentiful fare, and kind treatment, will always secure help. It is true, at first the current of prejudice was so strong against the practice that I added a shilling a day to my men's wages; but now I find no necessity of giving more than the ordinary price."

The above conversation had protracted the sitting at the table longer than usual, but no one rose before thanks were returned. Mr. H.'s hired men, in this respect, were as particular as his own children.

Mr. Howard now proposed to Edward to walk out and enjoy the cool air which had succeeded to the sultry warmth of the forepart of the day. Edward, upon walking about the premises, was surprised to find, though the sun was just setting, that all the week's work was done. The yoke was taken off the neck of the ox worn with the toil and heat of six days. The plough and the scythe were laid aside.

"You must have left off work at an early hour," observed Edward to Mr. Howard.

"It is my custom," said Mr. H., "in the general way, to leave off work of a Saturday afternoon from an hour to an hour and a half before sun down: so that all the family may have an opportunity to attend to some necessary concerns of their own, without intruding on sabbath morning—a custom, I am sorry to say, too common among us. I have also another object in view. I hold a family meeting Saturday evening for the spiritual benefit of my own family, upon which I wish to attend, and be ready all season. Indeed the hour is already near at hand."

But a few glimmering traces of day light now remained. The bird had done chirping from branch to branch, his carol was over for that day. The rose had folded its leaves up for the night. The cricket had already made his nightly appearance on the hearth, and begun his melancholy duty. Night, with its dark but spangled mantle, shrouded the universe, and man went into his dwelling.

The candle was lit, the Bible and hymn book on the table, the family assembled, when Mr. H. and Edward entered the room. After first reading a chapter, Mr. H. gave out the hymn, commencing with—

"The day is past and gone;
The evening shades appear;
O may we all remember well
The night of death draws near."

After a short but pertinent prayer, Mr. H. proceeded to ask each member of his family separately concerning their experience during the past week. He was faithful to notice negligence in secret duties, and levity of spirit. The meeting was profitable, and divine and heavenly influence rested upon the pious family during their devotional exercises. The evening was closed by each one's taking a part in prayer. Though this custom was something new to our circuit preacher, he thought families in general would find it an excellent help.

Before the family dispersed, Mr. H. observed that these Saturday evening meetings had been rendered

a great blessing to his family: that they led to great watchfulness throughout the week over their hearts, lips, and conduct; that they also greatly promoted a spirit of forbearance so essential to domestic happiness. It had also been a blessing to his hired men: several had been awakened, and experienced religion through this means. Mr. H. also remarked that they were a great help to the right performance of duties on the sabbath; that they detached the mind in good season from worldly concerns, and got it like an instrument in tune, fit for divine worship." He closed with hoping that others might be induced to follow the example for he thought that whatever tended to promote vital piety in a family was of essential importance.

Soon after the family separated for the night; and the happy inmates reposed in safety and in peace, under the divine protection.

BIOGRAPHY.

RICHARD HOOKER.

Richard Hooker was born near Exeter, in the 1553. He possessed great learning and sound judgment; and distinguished himself by a celebrated work entitled, "The Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity." He was a meek and pious man, and spent his days in labouring to promote the glory of his Creator, and the happiness of men.

A short time before his death, this humble and truly good man, expressed himself as follows: "I have lived to see that this world is full of perturbations; and I have been long preparing to leave it, and gathering comfort for the awful hour of making up my account with God, which I now apprehend to be near. And though I have, by his grace, loved him in my youth, and feared him in my age, and laboured to have a conscience void of offence towards him, and towards all men; yet, if thou, Lord, shouldst be extreme to mark what I have done amiss, how shall I abide it? Where I have failed, Lord, show mercy to me; for I plead not my righteousness, but the forgiveness of my unrighteousness, through his merits who died to purchase pardon for penitent sinners. And since I owe thee a death, Lord, let it not be terrible, and then choose thy own time; I submit to it. Let not mine, O Lord, but thy will be done!"

At another time, he said: "God hath heard my daily petition: for I am at peace with all men, and he is at peace with me. From this blessed assurance, I feel that inward joy, which the world can neither give, nor take from me. My conscience beareth me this witness: and this witness makes the thoughts of death joyful. I could wish to live, to do the church more service; but I cannot hope it; for my days are past, as a shadow that returns not."

Soon after he had uttered these expressions, his spirits failed him; and a short conflict put a period to his life, in the 45th year of his age.

The late Admiral SAMUEL GREIG, was a man highly and justly distinguished in the history of Russia, for the eminent services he rendered to that empire.

He was a native of Scotland; and descended from a line of ancestors, of whom many were eminent for their piety. His mother was a humble and consistent Christian, whose works praised her. She watched over the religious education of her children, with all the tender anxiety of a parent who knew the value of true religion; carefully instilling into their minds those principles which she knew to be so essential to their welfare in both worlds. At an early period Mr. Greig entered the British Navy, where he filled an honourable situation, and acquired great nautical skill. At the termination of the war in which the nation was then engaged in (1763) he, with many other officers, was honourably discharged; and the offer of an important situation on board a Russian man-of-war, being soon after this presented to him, of this he accepted. He soon gained the confidence of his Russian Sovereign, by whom he was promoted to the highest offices; and by those who were best acquainted with his now and judicious arrangements, he was considered in some sense the father of the Russian Navy. His superior skill in his profession is sufficiently evinced by the achievements of that navy at the period referred to: while the true excellence of his personal character placed

him high in the esteem and regard of those who had the most favourable opportunities of knowing him.

Upon the establishment of an advantageous peace, when his active services could for a time be more easily dispensed with, he requested permission to visit his dear native country. The Empress Catharine, whom he served, readily granted his request, and appointed him a vessel to convey him to his native shores, in a manner suitable to the rank he held in her service. It may be conceived with what joy his affectionate and pious mother received him. The apartment which he had been accustomed to occupy during his boyish days, was assigned him. On the morning following his arrival, whilst at the family breakfast-table, he remarked that it was with peculiar feelings of pleasure, and grateful remembrance of past days, he had occupied his own well recollected room; "but, my dear mother," said he, "I have been looking in vain for one article of furniture, which used always to be there, — the Bible." To the heart of such a mother these words conveyed a delight proportioned to the fears she might well have entertained, that the lustre, parade, and many temptations to which her son had been exposed, had rendered him indifferent to the precious volume, if not a despiser of the truth it contains, and of those who love it. She told him what had been her fears. He replied, that he was happy and grateful to God that he was able to declare, that not one day had elapsed during the years he had been absent, in which the word of God had not been consulted by him.

He returned to Russia, and married a lady of great excellence, with whom he lived many years in the enjoyment of much domestic comfort. By her he had five children—four sons, and one daughter. The anecdote just related of Admiral Greig, shows that while a young man he had held fast his integrity; and he did so to the end of his life.

The ground-work of this eminent man's character was a deep conviction of the truth of Christianity, and a strict and firm adherence to its doctrine and precepts. Amidst all the hurry of a public life, the attentions of court-favour, and the honours with which he was loaded, he was punctual in his attention to the duties of public and private devotions. Morning and evening he always found time to retire from the world, and hold intercourse with the Father of Spirits, and to read and meditate upon the Scriptures. He thus bore a uniform practical testimony to his love of the word of God, and to the comfort he derived from it.



Archbishop Tillotson a Pattern of Wisdom and Filial Duty towards his Aged Father.

After Dr. Tillotson became archbishop of Canterbury, by the appointment of William III. and was seated in all his splendour at Lambeth-Palace, his aged father, who was a plain cloth-worker, at Sowrbry, in Yorkshire, came to see him. (He travelled on foot, with leathern thongs to tie his shoes.) When the old man came to the gate he knocked, and the porter opened—*Is John Tillotson at home?* The man, perhaps, had never heard the words in his life; he had been used only to the grand words of "*His Grace, and My Lord.*" While the fellow was staring with wonder, the old man rushed forwards to the house-door. When the porter opened to him, he said again, "*Is John Tillotson at home?*" "John Tillotson! I don't know who you mean!" "Why I mean thy master—Go and tell him, a man wants to speak with John Tillotson." The servant complied, with reluctance, and went up stairs into the dining-room, at which moment there were a number of lords and ladies sitting down to dinner. He, confiding in the goodness of his master's temper, said, "My Lord, here's an old man, dressed like a country farmer, and says he wants to speak with John Tillotson. He was so urgent with me, that I could not delay, but who it is, or what business, I know not." The archbishop, with a most amiable simplicity, broke out "O, my lords and gentlemen, it is my father, come up from Yorkshire, on purpose to see me!" Down he flew, and fell upon his neck, and when he had smothered him with kisses, and drowned him with tears of joy, he led him up with his arm, and brought him into the company—"Here, my Lords and Gentlemen, is my Father! I am persuaded you will have no objection to his dining with you to day?" and, after grace was said, down he seats him at the right-hand, and let the good old