

they can indulge with fond remembrance, the recollection of his paternal devotion to their interests ; his anxiety and perseverance to render them respected ; and his unaffected piety and resignation to the will of Heaven ?

Such was the character of the aged Patriarch in the Text ; than whom a brighter example of affectionate regard for the best interests of his people, and of unreserved obedience to the will of his God, is not to be found in the annals of sacred or profane history.—He knew that it was “righteousness *alone* that exalteth a nation,” and therefore made the revealed will of his Maker the motive and rule of his own actions and conduct : thus by his example as well as by his commands, shewing the sincerity of his trust and reliance on the Divine promises—Nor was that faith misplaced. What seemed improbable to human foresight—what seemed contrary to human reason—what seemed at variance with human maxims and opinions, was yet fully accomplished. Even in the period of his own life, he saw his people become a great nation ; he saw their enemies flee before them ; he saw them attain to a height of eminence and power that commanded respect, and *himself acquired the reputation of a mighty Prince* :—Thus was the man blessed that feared the Lord !

What then must have been their sorrow and affliction when he was gathered to his Fathers ? Although he had reached, as our Text informs us, “a good old age,” and could not, in the common course of nature, be expected long to survive, yet even this would but increase their grief ; for a real friend is rendered doubly dear when his cheeks are furrowed by the stroke of time, and his brows shaded with hoary hairs.—All that was now left them, was the remembrance of his counsel, and the influence of his example. Our Bible, which is but brief on this subject, shews that they profited by them.—With dutiful respect they committed his mortal remains to the tomb, and their future conduct was a pleasing comment on the feelings of their hearts.—The God of Abraham was also their God.

The melancholy and affecting intelligence which has just reached these shores from the Parent Country, has placed us in a situation similar to that of the descendants of the “faithful Abraham.” We also are left to lament the loss of