

XII.—The Harmony of Scripture, and true Philosophy or Science.—The reception of Revelation by the most gifted minds.—Refutation of objections from Astronomy, Geology, and other sources.—By the Rev JOHN FORBES, D. D.

XIII.—Argument from Analogy.—The Consistency of Revelation and Providence.—Answer to Objections.—By the Rev. NATHANIEL PATERSON, D. D.

XIV.—The Evidence arising from the past progress of Christianity.—Answer to Gibbon's Secondary Causes.—Guilt and danger of resisting the Gospel.—Moral Responsibility of Man for his Belief.—By the Rev. JAMES GIBSON, A. M.

T. T. R.

OBITUARY NOTICE OF MRS WILSON.\*

*From the Presbyterian Review.*

A SERMON PREACHED AT BOMBAY ON THE 7TH OF MAY, 1835, ON THE OCCASION OF THE DEATH OF MRS. MARGARET WILSON, OF THE SCOTTISH MISSION.—BY THE REV. JOHN WILSON.

Mr. Wilson is one of the most faithful, diligent, and devoted of the Scottish missionaries employed in the east, and is already favourably known to our readers, as the author of two excellent controversial tracts in refutation of Hinduism. Nowhere has superstition erected her iron rule on so firm and stable a basis as in the fertile region of Hindoostan, and for ages its wretched inhabitants have bowed down without a murmur to its cruel and debasing tyranny. But at length some prospect of deliverance from this horrid yoke has opened up to our eastern subjects. Missionaries of high talent and ardent zeal have lately been sent to labour in that extensive field; and though far too few for a harvest so plenteous, they are yet beginning to exhibit gratifying traces of their spiritual operations. Mr. Duff has already done wonders in the east of India, and should his valuable life be spared, he may soon return to Bengal, and fully realize all of which he has given so fair a promise. Mr. Wilson's exertions in the west of India have been equally creditable to his piety and zeal. His health does not appear to have suffered materially from the sun's scorching rays; and as his heart is in his work, we may well anticipate the most successful result to his missionary labours. Like Mr. Duff, he is able not only to speak from the pulpit, but to call the press to his aid; and being thus doubly armed, he will fight with more effect against the enemies of truth, and succeed in bringing home to the Captain of Salvation a larger number of captives—the only captives who can

be said not to lose, but to gain immensely from their captivity.

Mr. Wilson was blessed with a most valuable assistant in his interesting duties—his own wife! but that excellent and accomplished woman is no more. Her constitution seems to have suffered from the influence of climate, and as her zeal knew no bounds, she increased the evil by unwearied, excessive exertion. Strange to say, if any part of her conduct was blameable, and supplied just cause for censure, it was her doing too much! She herself, indeed, must have been an infinite gainer by her happy change; but alas! her husband and the missionary cause have sustained a heavy loss. She seemed more anxious to get to heaven than to live on earth, and the Lord has been pleased to give her the translation for which she so earnestly longed. And let us hope that the interesting record of her labours which Mr. Wilson has so seasonably and affectionately furnished, will compensate in some degree for her premature demise; and that, though dead, she will yet speak for the spiritual benefit of those whom she was so anxious, while living, to instruct, to guide, and to save.

Mr. Wilson has selected for the text of his funeral sermon that portion of Scripture, in which the prophet Ezekiel narrates the sudden death of his beloved wife, (chap. xxiv. verse 15—20), and it would have been hardly possible for him to have found in the whole of the Bible one more happily suited to his purpose. He treats the passage in a calm, sensible, and judicious manner. There is no affectation of extreme pathos, nor any unseasonable attempts at oratory or fine writing. He discusses his subject briefly, though he omits nothing worthy of being mentioned; and by this exercise of good taste, he leaves ample room for a detailed exhibition of the merits and services of one, who may justly be said to hold the first place in the class of female missionaries. How admirably was she fitted by her various qualifications for the peculiar functions which it was her delight to exercise! But we shall allow her bereaved husband, who was so intimately acquainted with her mind and character to speak to us of her realizing faith, her ardent piety, her unquenchable zeal, her indefatigable labours, her christian graces, her domestic virtues, and her literary accomplishments. The following extract, though long, will not, we are sure, be felt as tedious by our readers.

“It was the desire of her heart, when a union was formed between us, to cheer and encourage me, to take part with me according to her ability and the grace which God might give to her, in the great work of evangelizing the heathen, to which I had looked forward; and with a view to accomplish these objects, she presented herself as a living sacrifice on the altar of God, vowing in his sacred presence that she would devote to his cause, her person, her acquisitions, her time, her strength and her substance. With a heart

\* Mrs. Wilson was a daughter of the late Rev Kenneth Bain, of Greenock, and sister of the Rev. John Bain, now minister of Galt, U. C.