

of luxury, in which he descends to great minuteness of detail ; but allows only a decent consistency. He would not have Christians "wear a severe and morose countenance," but condemns all buffoonery, unseemly merriment, and noisy mirth ; and comments with great severity upon "immodest speech." He enters minutely into the description of a lady's toilette. The "fine gentleman" of the day, the fop of Alexandria, and idlers "who lounge at the shop to gaze at the females as they pass," especially move his virtuous indignation. Some of the details to which he descends are curious enough ; but the picture which he draws of the morals of the day, especially the female morals, is really appalling. But in the midst of this extreme degeneracy and corruption, he exhibits himself the champion of a pure and inflexible morality, based on deep and earnest piety.

Let us not, however, imagine that the primitive Christians were sad and melancholy. All their history shows them to have been cheerful and happy. Free from cankering, corroding cares, and guilty passions, they enjoy peace of conscience, and rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. They were eminently social. The sacred song, the harp, the lyre, and the exalted themes of Christian intercourse enlivened the pastimes ; so that, in their quiet seclusion, they enjoyed a steady and tranquil flow of happiness and peace, with which no stranger could intermeddle. With a propriety which none else could claim, they could say,

"With us no melancholy void,
No moment lingers unemploy'd,
Or unimproved below ;
Our weariness of life is gone,
Who live to serve our God alone,
And only Jesus know."

—*Dr. Lyman Coleman.*

THE FIRST DEATH IN THE FAMILY.

The most memorable epoch in the history of my family, is the first entrance of death within its circle. The death of beloved relatives is always a solemn event ; but at no time is its occurrence so touching, or its ravages so visible, as when it breaks the first link of the golden chain that creates the identity of a family. It is an event that is never to be forgotten by the survivors, and it changes all their subsequent associations and history. It may be that the first-born, whose eyes had scarcely opened on the world,