

THE LATE REV. Dr. GUTHRIE.

In our last issue we briefly adverted to the death of Dr. Guthrie, intelligence of which had just been received. His death took place at an early hour in the morning of the 24th Feb. For some time previous he had been sinking, and, while no hopes were entertained of his recovery, the reports as to his condition, which were published from time to time, were received with the greatest anxiety. On the Friday before his death a telegram was received from Her Majesty the Queen, desiring information as to Dr. Guthrie's condition. He died in great peace, surrounded by the members of his family.

In most of the newspapers of the day, lengthened notices have appeared of Dr. Guthrie. A lengthened article appeared in the *Edinburgh Scotsman* on the day succeeding his death, giving a full account of his life, labors, and character, adding to its own remarks, those of a correspondent, who was, at the same time, a personal friend of the eminent divine. We quote these last:

"The leading and most essential and characteristic peculiarity of this great man is that he was deeply, earnestly, intensely Christian. All other qualities of mind and heart and life were merged in the intensity of Christian feeling. In his studies, his pursuits, his family—in his social habits, his warm-hearted friendships, his zealous philanthropy—in his pastoral labors and his pulpit ministrations—in his work and in his life, love for "the Master" was the pervading, animating, sustaining power which upheld him. That Master has now called his servant home. He had no fear of death. He had long known and felt that his life was precarious, and that his death might be sudden. Yet the tranquillity, the trustfulness, even the joyfulness of his walk, was not disturbed by the conviction that he held life by a very feeble tenure. In a spirit of serene and devout trust, he awaited his call. As he himself once expressed it, in speaking of a departed friend, "death was to him like the chariot which Joseph sent to bear his brethren home." In the crisis of his alarming illness in Edinburgh, some months ago, he was, by himself and his weeping family, believed to be at the point of death, and at the gates of the eternal kingdom. Turning his tender eye to the dear ones around, he said, "it may be that, before the morning dawns, I shall see my mother, and my Saviour." Few things could more sweetly and touchingly illustrate the rare combination of the childlike tenderness of human love, and the devout simplicity of Christian faith. He was spared for a season. That call was a call for preparedness. Another call has come, and been obeyed.

"While health and strength remained, Dr. Guthrie was almost unrivalled as a pastor. Both before the disruption and since, he devoted himself to unremitting pastoral labor, especially among the poorest, the most wretched, the most guilty of the community. He was the bearer of the Gospel message to the lost—truly a home missionary. His name and memory will ever be associated with the system of ragged schools, especially the "original ragged schools of Edinburgh"—of which, indeed, he was the proposer and the founder. This is not the time or the place to explain or defend the principles of those schools. That they have been eminently efficient as a means of juvenile reformation is beyond a doubt, and that, for their efficiency as well as for the amount and earnestness of public support, they were chiefly indebted to Dr. Guthrie, is equally clear. There are not a few worthy and intelligent citizens, not a few useful members of families and members of Christian Churches, who owe to Dr. Guthrie their rescue from ignorance