

instrument of infusing extensively in others. He magnified his office: and he was the means, in a high degree, of elevating the character, extending the influence, and of increasing the efficiency of the church to which he belonged. It would be difficult to say for what he was most distinguished, for he seemed to combine, in a high degree, almost every excellency of an intellectual and moral kind: and I think, he approached as near to perfection of character as any man I ever knew. The feature, however, which most attracted me was, the large share he had of 'the meekness and gentleness of Christ.' This shone forth in his whole character, and appeared on all occasions in his conduct, whether in public or in private. In conversation, with sweet urbanity of manners, and wise adaptation to circumstances, he was luminously instructive. He was most upright, candid and sincere:—always cheerful, and on fit occasions, as he could receive, so he could impart delight, by good humour, mingled with dignity and refinement. In the pulpit he uniformly supported his high character. His discourses were always excellent, and often most impressive. His style was correct, chaste and beautiful. His plans were always distinct, logical and memorable; and his illustrations were most thoroughly evangelical,—rich in gospel truth, and, to every appearance, his well selected words, and always important, and often profound and original sentiments, seemed to flow from a soul most deeply imbued with the spirit of his Divine Master.

On the same year Dr. Mitchell died, another of the Professors also finished his labours. This was Dr. Balmer, of Berwick, upon Tweed, Professor of Systematic Theology. He departed this life on the first of July, 1844. His character is finely drawn by Dr. Henderson, of Galashiels, in a memoir prefixed to Lectures and Discourses published since his death, from which we make the following extracts:—

"If Dr. Balmer was eminently endowed in regard to his intellectual powers, he was still more remarkable for a certain moral greatness. In his character, in this respect, deep and fervent piety, was, it may be said, the leading and most important feature. It was exhibited, not in any frequent or open expression of personal feeling, for in regard to this he was on the whole reserved; but you saw it pervading and actuating his whole manner of life. He seemed to conduct himself under the habitual consciousness that the eye of God was upon him, and with a prevailing desire to approve himself to Him. In his prayers, especially, you were made to feel the profound reverence with which he approached the majesty of the Father, as well as the holy boldness with which he drew near, through the mediation of the Son, whom he made all his confidence, and all his hope. Never was there one more entirely free from anything like affectation or conceit; more full of candour in explaining his own views and actions, and in judging of those of others." \* \* \*

"I never knew," says one of his co-presbyters, "any one more remarkably distinguished by the pure love of truth and goodness, for their own sakes. He seemed to me to live habitually in the calm and delighted contemplation of the morally and spiritually beautiful. His character was one of transparent purity and simplicity. Of simulation in all its forms, his nature was profoundly ignorant. He seemed always to me, 'an Israelite indeed in whom there was no guile.'"

In reference to this amiable and accomplished minister, we add the following extract from a letter of Dr. Hleugh, to Mrs. Balmer on the occasion of her husband's death:—

"My acquaintance with Dr. Balmer was but imperfect; but it was sufficient to impress me with his rare value. I have always regarded with respect and admiration his calm and clear intellect, his soft benignity, the singular gentleness of his nature, the almost ethereal tone of his spirit, the transparent sincerity of his character, the meekness and modesty of his constant bearing, his unsullied purity, his fervent piety. As often as I reflect on whatever I knew of him, the character of Leighton comes before me, and that of two Bible