

## OBITUARY.

NOTICE OF THE DECEASE OF MRS. ELIZABETH BISHOP, OF THE SANDWICH ISLANDS MISSION.

Mrs. Bishop was a native of Marlborough, Mass., and was born in June, 1798. Her family name was Edwards. She was early deprived of both her parents; her father having died before she was two years old, and her mother when she was about fourteen. Left an orphan at this early age, she became dependant for support upon her own exertions. At this trying period, she found faithful friends who counselled and protected her. Of their kindness she was deeply sensible, and repaid it with gratitude and warm affection. While attending school at Bradford, she became decidedly pious, and was ever exemplary in the performance of all religious duties.— She was deeply interested in the cause of missions; and though she felt her incompetency to engage personally in a work of such magnitude as missionary labours among the heathen, yet when that seemed to become her duty, she could cheerfully yield up herself to the service. Her marriage with Mr. Bishop, and embarkation at New Haven, Conn., for the Sandwich Islands, took place in November, 1822, and she arrived at the latter place in April, 1823.— From 1824 till her decease, she resided at Kairua.

Mrs. B. was possessed of a very cheerful and amiable disposition, and strong powers of mind. She also possessed a great desire for intellectual improvement, and carefully availed herself of every opportunity of acquiring knowledge. She was uncommonly persevering in surmounting difficulties, which stood in her path. She seems to have been eminently qualified for her labours among the heathen, and secured the confidence and affection of all her brethren and sisters in the same field. That she was much beloved by the people of the Islands, appears from their assiduous attention during her sickness. She was peculiarly successful in teaching the females, and gaining their affections. Mrs. Bishop was taken ill in August, 1827, and immediately became unable to perform the ordinary labours of her family. She seemed at first to suffer from no particular disease, but from a general debility, which occasioned slight pains in different parts of her system. As her illness increased, various remedies were resorted to, without giving any permanent relief. She removed into the mountains to enjoy the cooler and purer air; but the desired effect not being produced, she accompanied Mr. Bishop to Honoruru, on the island of Oahu, to try the effect of a voyage, and with the hope also, of finding at that island some foreign physician, whose advice she might avail herself of. For a time she was somewhat benefitted by the voyage, and Dr. Ford, of the English whale ship Elizabeth, and the surgeon of a Russian discovery ship, which were then in port, paid the kindest attention to her case, until they perceived that their prescriptions produced little or no good effect. They pronounced her disease to be an obstinate dyspepsy. After spending about three months at Honoruru, she returned to Kairua. In the mean time, her debility had greatly increased, and her pains had become exceedingly severe. The irritation of her nervous system had become such, that the slightest noise would agitate and distress her. The voyage to Kairua exhausted her still more; and after her arrival there, she wasted away rapidly. While at Honoruru, besides the medical aid of the two physicians mentioned above, she shared in the sympathy and care of the mission families at that place; and while at Kairua she received from Mrs. Thurston the kindest attention. The native females at both places, and especially at the latter, where she finished her course, were constantly solicitous to testify their esteem and affection. Mr. B. remarks on this point—

"The Christian females in this place were not backward in their attentions at this hour of trial.— With the tenderest sympathy for the sufferings of their beloved teacher, they vied with each other, who should be foremost in waiting upon her and administering to her comfort. Two in rotation, came each morning, and sat by her bedside through the day, fanned her, bathed her aching head in water, and chafed her cold limbs with their hands: thus affording the clearest evidence, that her labours with them had not been in vain. After I had become nearly exhausted with watchings and anxiety, they continued their visits through the night, alternately administering to her wants."

"All hope of Mrs. B.'s recovery had flown. Her strength was exhausted, but her pains were not mitigated. She bore them, however, through her decline, with exemplary patience, and resignation to the divine will. She continued to grow feebler, until the 21<sup>st</sup> of February, 1828, when she ceased from her labours and sufferings on earth, to enter into that rest which remains for the people of God. A communication from her husband contains a statement of her feelings in view of approaching death, and affords ample evidence of her humility, the high standard by which she estimated the Christian character, and her confidence in the salvation of the Gospel.

From the first of her sickness, Mrs. Bishop became impressed with the belief, that she had not long to live, and often expressed to me the necessity of settling her house in order for the event of death. At that time I considered it as the effect of melancholy, brought on by anxiety and a declining state of health. While residing at Kairua, with the family of Mr. Bingham, she one day walked out to a solitary spot, where she supposed no human foot-step would often tread, and selected the place as one where she could wish to repose after her decease.

She was constantly impressed with a sense of her unfaithfulness, and the little good she had accomplished during the few years of her missionary life, and often prayed that she might be spared in order to make amends for past neglect. As I may have occasion frequently to advert to the low estimation in which she held her services in the cause, and the opinion, which she entertained at times, that her neglect of the heathen had even been a reproach, I would take this occasion to bear my testimony, in accordance with my brethren, that her active mind when not occupied in necessary domestic concerns, was ever employed in doing something for the spiritual or temporal good of the people around her.— She was daily in the habit of receiving the females into her house, to instruct them in reading, writing, and domestic arts. And the reason why she could not fully appreciate this, during her last illness, was doubtless owing to the melancholy state of her mind, springing out of her disorder. She was never, when in health, prone to think highly of her religious attainments; but possessing the highest charity for others, she would often propose them to herself, as models for imitation. She never could feel, when she had done for the heathen what was in her power, that she had so done her duty, as to merit the approbation of her Master. In health, her spirits were usually buoyant and cheerful; but in regard to her religious duties, she was ever humble, and seldom appealed to them, as an evidence of her piety. She often used to lament that she could find no secluded spot in or about the house, where she could retire at stated seasons for secret devotion; and gave that as a reason why she had no more religious enjoyment. But in her late sickness, the thought that she had not always been punctual in the secret duties of the closet, gave her the deepest sorrow.— Often she would in the most solemn manner charge me, as I valued my peace of conscience, and desired to avoid the pangs of remorse on a dying bed, to be ever punctual in secret devotions. She desired me also to tell it to others, when she was gone, that they too might learn from her to avoid what she then suffered. It may be proper to remark here, that in the duties of the closet, her conscience was ever tender; and in my opinion, she did always endeavour to be punctual in this respect; but it is probable that the duty was sometimes omitted by her, owing to the interruptions to which she was subjected, every hour in the day, by the intrusion of natives into a house, where there is no upper chamber, or inner door, unless a curtain may be so called.

(To be continued.)

## LITERATURE.

## WORKS OF NATURE.

It is the glorious privilege of man, while other animals are confined within the limits which instinct has prescribed, to carry his observations beyond his own immediate wants, and to contemplate the universe at large. He extends his enquiries to all the objects which surround him, exercises his judgment, and informs his understanding, by ascertaining their nature, properties, and uses. In the various branches of the mathematics, in the abstract speculations

of metaphysics, or in searching the records of history, he is solely intent on the operations of his own mind, or the actions of himself and his fellow-creatures; but in the study of nature, he examines every object presented to his senses, and takes a general survey of the wide and interesting prospects of the creation. The earth he treads, the ocean he crosses, the air he breathes, the starry heavens on which he gazes, the winds and vapours he explores, all present to his abundant materials for his researches. And, when thus employed, he is engaged in a manner peculiarly suitable to his faculties, since he alone is capable of knowledge, he alone is distinguished by the power of admiration, and exalted by the faculty of reason. The terraqueous globe presents a most glorious and sublime prospect, equally worthy of the capacity of man to contemplate, and beautiful to his eye to behold. And the treasures of nature, which this prospect comprehends, are so rich and inexhaustible, that they may furnish employment for his greatest diligence, stimulated by the most ardent curiosity, and assisted by the most favourable opportunities. At the same time that she solicits him to follow her, not only into her open walks, but likewise to explore her secret recesses, she fails not to reward him with the purest gratifications of the mind, because at every step he takes, new instances of beauty, variety, and perfection, are unfolded to his view. The study of the works of nature is in itself capable of affording the most refined pleasure, and the most edifying instruction. All the objects with which we are surrounded, the smallest as well as the greatest, teach us some useful lesson. All of them speak a language directed to man, and to man alone. Their evident tendency to some determined end, marks the designs of a great Creator. The volume of creation contains the objects of arts, science, and philosophy, and is open to the inspection of all the inhabitants of the globe. Nature speaks by her works an universal language, the rudiments of which are peculiarly adapted to the inclination and capacity of the young, whose curiosity may be gratified and excited by turns; but more profound and extensive enquiries are suitable to the contemplations of persons of every age; and no subject can be more worthy of their attentive observation.

Whoever opens his eyes, and surveys the creation with the least attention, must perceive a beautiful variety of objects that present themselves to view, and seem to demand his notice. In summer, meadows enamelled with numberless plants and flowers, affording rich pasturage for cattle; fields waving with different kinds of grain for the use of man; woods, forests, plains, and mountains, differently adorned; and ponds, lakes, or winding rivers, varying the charming scene. In winter, the forests naked, nature as it were suspending her productive power; the air severe and piercing, the earth frozen, the waters rendered hard, and capable of bearing men, cattle and carriages; the falling of the fleecy snow; and all the circumstances attending this cold rigorous season; every particular deserves our consideration, and commands inquiry. Look we out at night, when darkness covers and conceals the beauties of our earthly globe, we shall find this temporary loss made up to us by those numberless and glorious stars that glitter in the magnificent canopy hanging over us; and if the moon arises, her mild and friendly rays enlighten the silent scene, and give a fainter day.—In short, whatever the season of the year, whether cheerful spring, warm summer, rich autumn, or cold winter; whatever the hour of the day or night, things worthy of our most serious notice are at hand; things which to know may truly be called learning, and in the study of which an intelligent being may always employ his leisure hours with pleasure. But some kind of method is necessary, to lead the mind at first into a proper train of inquiry. We will therefore proceed step by step, first explaining some of the most common appearances of nature, such as air, water, wind, rain, thunder, &c. then descending into the bowels of the earth, we will give you some knowledge of metals and minerals, such as gold, silver, iron, lead, with many other phenomena, &c.; then wandering over its surface, we will take a view of the vegetable world, and all its beauties, and from thence we will proceed to the animal creation, and survey the insects, birds, fishes, and beasts, and lastly, raise our thoughts, and close the whole with some particular inquiries into the nature and powers of man.