

He not only instructed them in agriculture, horticulture, and the mechanic arts, and was their pastor and school-master, but their physician also. Early in life he had devoted considerable time to the theory of medicine, and now he climbed the steepest mountains in night as well as day, and at all seasons of the year, to visit and prescribe for the sick.

These services made him most dear to the people. Nor did he forget to preserve their regard by his affectionate manners. He never met either man or woman among them, without taking off his hat, and saying some words of kindness. Every child he took by the hand, and showed some little mark of attention, adding often some pleasant advice.

His own manners were imitated by his people ; so that from having been rude and uncouth, they became insensibly gentle and courteous. It was remarked by strangers who visited them that, though very poor, they were exceedingly polite and happy.

They sought in every way to express their gratitude to their beloved pastor. On one occasion a son of his, who was travelling in France, in the service of the Bible Society, was taken sick. He desired to reach home that he might die there. but he could only get within nine miles of his father's house.

Twelve of the villagers set out to bring him those nine miles on a litter. But finding that he was not able to bear the open air, they placed him in a covered carriage, and as they went slowly along removed every stone from before it, that no rude motion of the wheels might disturb the sufferer. His death was peaceful and happy, and they mingled their tears with those of the father, with the most affecting sympathy.

The five villages to whom Mr. Oberlin ministered, were considerably distant from each other. He therefore preached in each by turns. As he kept no horse, an inhabitant of the parish where he was to officiate brought one for him every Sabbath morning. He took his dinner with some of the families, and then conversed with every grown person and child belonging to it, on the great concerns of their souls.

In his sermons there was an affecting eloquence and a striking adaptation to the wants of his people, for he was intimately acquainted with them all. He usually preached in French, because this language was spoken by the majority of his parishioners. But on Friday evening he had service in German, as there were some who understood it better than French.