

the believer is disposed to say, with the patriarch to whom we have now referred, "the Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord." What a comfortable state of mind is this ! This is the state of mind to which genuine faith will bring us.

Again, in respect to death, there can be but little room to doubt of the superiority of the christian principles over all others, in enabling us to gain a victory over its terrors.

What is death to one set of unbelievers ? It is the utter destruction of being—a returning to dust, the wreck of the thinking principle, that by which we know and love, and are capable of enjoyment. Death to one set of unbelievers is this ! To such men, how unmingled must the terrors of death be. No idea can be so overpowering as that of complete and irrecoverable annihilation. Every heart must recoil at its admission, for it threatens eternal destruction to its best affections.

What is death to another set of unbelievers ? It is an event which is to close all communion with the present scene of things. It is to break every tie, how tender and endearing soever it may be. It is to terminate their earthly wishes, their earthly pursuits and happiness.

But is it not to open up a new and better scene to their view ? To carry them to a world where greater order, and harmony, and joy prevail ? Ah ! no. This is what no infidel is assured of. Another life is, with him, only an object of hope, of desire. And when death approaches, his own imagination, fertile in objections, will not fail to darken, if not extinguish, the few rays of light which had served to shed something like comfort over the tomb.

But what is death to the christian ? It is a release from all his heavy cares ; from all his contentions against sin ; from all his troubles, his sorrows, his disappointments. It is a call from God to come up to the abode of purity and joy ; it is a call from Jesus to join his glorified society, to share in his unbounded love. It is an invitation from the spirits of the just made perfect, to throw off the cumbrous load of clay, and fly, on the wings of adoring affection, to the source of immortal delight.

True it is also, a parting with many here who deserved and enjoyed his best regards, but such parting is accompanied with nothing that is permanently painful, because the assurance of meeting in heaven, the habitation of the good, preserves the mind in peaceful serenity.

Such is death to the true, the obedient disciple

of the Lord Jesus. Need we ask whether his faith enables him to overcome its terrors ? That it does so, must be abundantly evident. To the believer, Christ has brought life and immortality to light, and has thus deprived death of its sting and the grave of its terrors.

How great a blessing, then, to the world is christianity ! It is a religion which confines not its influence to any one state of human existence.—It extends to all. In the deepest distress to which human beings can be reduced, it is fitted to console and comfort the mind. Nor does it restrict its regards to the couch of distress—it extends them also to the heart, pierced by the bitterness of that grief which a consciousness of sin excites. It speaks peace to the wounded conscience ; it strips the judgment seat of its terrors, and places at the right hand of the majesty on high, a tender and all-prevailing Advocate, who not only pleads for forgiveness, but for grace to help us in every time of need. When nature faints and fails, when earthly objects have lost all their power to attract and gain our attention, it is the strength of our hearts and our portion forever. On the dark valley of the shadow of death, it causes the light of a new and more glorious world to spring. It conducts us peacefully and virtuously to the end of our earthly journey, and when its last step is taken, it raises us to joy unspeakable and full of glory, to the general assembly of the first born in heaven, to God the Judge of all, and to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant.

C.

M.

## PRACTICAL SERMONS.

NO. VI.

By the Rev. W. T. Leach, of Toronto.

And I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and give you an heart of flesh.—Ezekiel, xxxvi. 26.

It may not be a very striking, but out of doubt, it is a very weighty argument for the truth of our holy faith, that it makes most effectual provision for the cultivation of moral rectitude. In this respect, its enemies, for the most part have acknowledged its consistency, and any one who has the prudence to consider, and the intelligence to understand the efficacy of the motives which it supplies, and the means and assistance which it fur-