

eternity, preach for eternity." Her last sayings, distinctly to be understood, were, I am a child of God : God is my Father.

" I'll praise my Maker while I've breath
And when my voice is lost in death
Praise shall employ my nobler powers,
My days of praise shall ne'er be past
While life, or thought, or being last, or immortality endures."

The above is a faint sketch of the death-bed scene of my much esteemed wife and companion, Sophia Bennett of Newport, who departed this life, December 21, 1839, in the fifty-fourth year of her age.

W. BENNETT.

Newport, Dec. 25, 1839.

The following is an Extract from a Letter on the same subject, by her Brother,

HALIFAX, December 26th, 1839.

W. SARGENT, Esq.

"From the time that she was taken ill until her last breath, (which was from Sabbath 1st. inst. until Saturday 21st, just 21 days,) she appeared to have had scarcely an interval of rest, night or day; and the disease continued without any material alteration or abatement from the first. On Friday, 20th inst, about mid day, she was attacked with severe spasms, producing intense agony and suffering, until which her mind for the most part continued firm and collected, but then appeared to wander; and her speech soon after failed, so that she could not be distinctly understood.

"Her efforts at speaking, which were continued from this time nearly to the last, were an indistinct muttering. From mid night the severity of the spasms was much mitigated.

"You will of course be desirous of knowing what were her views and feelings under these painful circumstances, and in prospect of her entrance upon a world of spirits, and appearance in the presence of her Maker and her Judge.

"While attending the public service of the sanctuary on the Sabbath previous to the one on which she was taken ill, her mind was peculiarly affected during the singing of the last Hymn, with a deep and solemn sense of the nearness of the eternal World; and an impression almost amounting to an assured conviction, that she would no more engage in such scenes on earth. This she viewed as a gracious premonition from her heavenly Father of approaching affliction, and perhaps death, and mentioned the circumstance in this point of view to Mr. Bennett, at the time, and to myself and several others afterwards; and from the first of her illness death appeared to have been contemplated by her, without fear or dismay, as the sure result of the disorder. She frequently alluded to one circumstance, as a most gracious and remarkable deliverance, wrought for her by a gracious God—a circumstance which you are well aware, all who knew her apprehended as her severest trial at the last, viz. the giving up her children; but this she was enabled to do unreservedly from the first, so much so that they did not give her mind the least uneasiness; and it was the same with every other worldly care. She did not, during the first part of her illness, feel that unclouded liberty and assurance of mind that she desired. She acknowledged and lamented her short comings and unfaithfulness, and appeared clearly to see, and deeply to feel the evil of her heart, and her need of entire sanctification of body, soul, and spirit. She at the same time expressed her entire dependence on the all-atoning and precious blood of Christ alone for the accomplishment of that great work. She sought, desired, prayed, and believed not in vain. Her mind became not only filled with peace, but with joy, and triumph in believing. This happy state of mind was

the result partly of the application of a portion of the true and faithful word, which appeared peculiarly applicable to her previous sense of unfaithfulness and short comings. It was the Words of Jacob respecting the tribe of Gad,—'Gad, a troop shall overcome him: but he shall overcome at the last.' Her prayers—her conversation—the recital of verses of Scripture, and of Hymns,—all were expressive of her peace, her joy, and happy prospects; she would frequently sing some verse expressive of her peace of mind, her hope and her desires. The last words that she uttered that were distinctly understood were, 'I am a child of God, and God is mine;' at the same time repeating or singing,

" I'll praise my Maker while I've breath."

"She called all the children to her, and took leave of each solemnly, advising, praying for, and giving them her blessing. I must not omit her frequently saying, 'O what should I do if I had religion to seek now.'—Thus died our dear sister, and now we have good reason to hope that she is,

" Far from a world of grief and sin,
With God eternally shut in."

"This hope is founded not merely on the facts connected with her death-bed. She sought the Lord in her youth, and persevered in her choice and pursuit of religion under some trying and painful circumstances, renouncing the vanities, the pleasures, and the worldly associates of her youth. She continued firm in her attachment to the cause of religion during life; and at the last she proved the advantage of the course she had pursued. She sought the Lord in her youth, and he forsook her not in the time of need. But the facts I have now alluded to were not the grounds of her hope or of her rejoicing at the last. No; the language of her heart, as exemplified in all her conversation was, 'I the chief of sinners am. But Jesus died for me.' To her enlightened and divinely instructed mind, the reviews of her past life, when brought to the standard of God's most holy law, could, and did afford little else than matter of humiliation and abasement of soul. For pardon, for holiness, and eternal life, her hope was founded on the all-sufficient atonement of the Redeemer.

"Her funeral was attended by Rev. Mr. Crocombe. And at Mr. B's request, after the corpse was laid on the bier, the first verse of the Hymn, p. p. 13. 'Leader of Faithful souls and Guide,' &c. &c. was sung, and as the second verse was being given out, the bier was taken up, and the procession moved on, the singers proceeding and singing that and the following verses of the Hymn; and also some other Hymns at intervals until arrived at the grave yard connected with the Chapel, where she particularly requested that she might be interred, the usual service being over they then adjourned to the Chapel, and Mr. Crocombe preached a sermon from Rev. vii 14 'These are they which come out of great tribulation and have washed their robes; and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.'

"It will be gratifying to you to know, what indeed you will scarcely need to be assured of, that our dear sister's step-daughters, to whom I believe she had much endeared herself, were unremitting in their most watchful and affectionate attentions to her during the whole of her illness; one or the other of them being always with her by night or by day, nor could their own mother, I am persuaded, have received or desired a more unwearied attention.

"I will only add, that I hope and pray that this bereavement will be so remembered and improved by us, her brothers, as well as by all who were connected or acquainted with her as to induce such a due and timely preparation as shall secure us all a happy meeting with her, where pain or parting shall be no more.

"With affectionate remembrance to all our friends.
I remain yours affectionately."

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