

deemer's Kingdom without proclaiming abroad his zeal. During his last illness faith, patience, and humble resignation to his Heavenly Father's will, were beautifully exemplified. "Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright; for the latter end of that man is peace."

#### THE LATE MR. WYLIE, RAMSAY, U. C.

In compliance with our recent announcement that we were anxious to receive Local communications from the friends of the Church in order to render *The Presbyterian* as interesting as possible, a friend at Brockville has forwarded to us the excellent Address which we subjoin. The subject of it was an Elder of the Church, and always took a very deep interest in its welfare. In the month of November last he left for Cuba, indulging the hope that a residence in its genial climate would restore him to health; but it pleased his Heavenly Father to order differently, as he gently fell asleep in Christ on the 22nd January last. His disease was Chronic Bronchitis.

We earnestly recommend to our readers a careful perusal of the Address; and it is our fervent prayer that through the Divine blessing it may produce the beneficial effect which our correspondent anticipates, when he expresses his anxious hope "that it may be the means of doing good in stirring up many who might be useful to the Church, although actively engaged in business, as the late Mr. Wylie was."

#### COPY OF THE ADDRESS

*Delivered by the Rev. John M. Morine at the Funeral of the late W. G. Wylie, Esq., Ramsay, 20th February, 1851.*

My dear Brethren,—Were I to consult my feelings, I would rather mourn in silence than address you on the present solemn and trying occasion; though, had I strength, it would give me a soothing satisfaction to pay some tribute to the memory of one whose early removal has fallen as a heavy blow, not only upon his own family, but upon society at large. I cannot dwell on the circumstances of his death; they are mournful, they are affecting, they require no description to excite the tenderest sympathy of every heart; and I am sure there is not one here, whose bosom does not swell with emotion, whether he looks to the silent dead, or to the disconsolate relations whom he has left behind. We would rather turn to something less painful and more profitable to the soul. His death is full of important instruction. It is an illustration of God's sovereignty. He takes away life just when He pleases. It is an illustration of the sad effects of sin. In its train came disease, and death, and all our woes. It shows the uncertain tenure by which we hold existence, and the necessity of early and constant preparation for coming death. It is a warning voice for all who are living in any sin, who are unchanged in heart and practice, and so unprepared to die; while it contains a powerful call to the people of God, especially to the doubtful and trembling, to use greater diligence to make their calling and election sure. His position in society, his manifold connections in the way of business, the interest he took in the concerns of the Township and of the Church, brought him prominently before a large circle around him, and subjected him to their frequent observation; and we believe most of you are prepared from personal knowledge and experience to form a just estimate of his character; and the

numbers that are now before me form the best of all testimonies to his worth. Our object is not so much to make you acquainted with what he was, as to draw lessons of practical wisdom, applicable to ourselves, from his precious example. It is emphatically true of him, that, though "dead, he yet speaketh." He did not indeed hold a station so public, nor were his services so extended and visible, as to draw a nation's eye and insure a place in the annals of History. He felt no such ambition, he sought no such distinction. He saw the place which Providence had assigned to him, he was content with it; and his only care was to perform the duties belonging to it. And, though his name may not last to future generations, perfumed with the incense of a nation's gratitude, yet I am sure it will be embalmed in the memory of not a few living.

His services, his kindnesses, will form a monument in the hearts of many now before me. There are few who required assistance, advice, or direction, who will not miss him who is now no more. But what lessons may we get from his life and death? First, in general, we may get from him an impressive lesson, that Religion is the true good of man. Who does not see this now that he is gone? What a poor life would his have been, had he not been Religious? He had smiling prospects indeed in the world. He had a lovely family, a comfortable home, surrounded by Nature's loveliest scenes and objects; he had a competent income and a large increasing business. How naturally might his heart have rested on these things? How naturally might he have said to his soul, as too many do: "Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years, eat, drink, and be merry?" But, had he reasoned thus, what would have been the result? We see that in his case such reasoning would have been madness. But how does his case differ from our own? Look a little back, he was one of ourselves; look a little forward, and we shall be what he is now. What would have been madness in him, is madness in us. If we would not lie down in sorrow over a misspent life—if we would not miss the end for which life is given—if we would not have our friends and relations mourn over us after we are dead, with no hope, not to mention more awful considerations, let Religion, true vital Religion be our chief concern. When we look to the dead, everything retires and sinks down to its native insignificance but the grand question of their Christianity. That emerges from the mass of other interests, and stands alone in its awful importance. And yet, if it is not raised to its proper value in life, and made the supreme object of our practical regard at all times, it will serve little purpose to see its value for a moment in the presence of the dead. Glance then, my friends, over the life of him whose remains are now before you; look at his death, his early death; and let both persuade you to make Religion the leading concern of your life, now and for ever. Do not make a few solemn reflections over the dead, and then go away and plunge into worldly interests and pleasures with as much avidity as ever; but carry the view, which you now obtain, along with you, and let it give a tone and a character to your whole future life. Like him who is now dead, be Religious. Are you healthy? Are you prosperous? Like him, be Religious. Do you bask in the smiles of the world? Still, still be Religious. He allowed nothing to steal away his Religion, neither do you. Death, though it came soon, did not surprise him, did not disappoint him; neither will it do you, if you walk in his footsteps. More particularly, let the young learn, like him, to be religious. He was only 36 years old when he died, and yet he had been more than eighteen years a decided Christian. From his earliest years he gave signs of seriousness; and at 18 years of age he openly declared for Christ by seating himself at the Lord's Table. This he did, though far from his father's home, and though closely employed in secular business. After spending the long day in the busy store, instead of rushing to the haunts of giddy pleas-

ure, he solaced himself with his Bible. While others of his age and profession were tasting the intoxicating cup, or giving loose reins to other sinful appetites and passions, he retired to the closet, and poured out his soul before his God; and some of the letters which he then wrote breathed the most ardent piety. Having come, however, but recently to this part of the country, I cannot detail the particulars of his early Christian career, though I understand from others who know that it was highly exemplary. We say then to the young now before us: "Go ye and do likewise." Do not think that it is only for the more grave and advanced in life to join the ranks of Christians. The younger you are in Christ the better. It is the safest, the happiest, to give your youth unto the Lord. Mark the effect of his early piety. Had he neglected Religion when young, he might not have been what he was when he came to die. Every hour's delay diminishes the probability of our ever being in Christ. "They that seek Me early shall find Me."

Finally, let all learn to imitate the character of his Christianity. Here his preeminence distinctly appears. Ah! my brethren, we have met with a great loss. We have lost one whom we could ill spare. We do not think it necessary to dwell on his natural endowments. As a man, he had a large share of practical wisdom, a sound judgement, a correct taste. He was a most thorough and accomplished man of business, systematic, accurate, punctual, reaching to the most complex and lengthened details with great exactness. He combined, also, the qualities of the Christian with the polish and courtesy and liberal ideas of the gentleman; he had also a mild cheerfulness of temper, latterly somewhat subdued, perhaps from the state of his health. But our business is with his Christian character. We do not say it was faultless; this is too much to say of any man. If himself would have been the first to refuse such a compliment. There is no doubt that he felt much evil within, and groaned daily under a sense of guilt and unworthiness; but there are few whose outward conduct was so thoroughly blameless. He had the humility of a Christian. This was impressed on his whole demeanour. Who ever heard the haughty retort from his lips? Who ever found him despising the poor? Who ever saw him putting on an air of superiority, or assuming a proud distance from any of his fellow-creatures? He bore the subdued spirit of one who had humbled himself before God. His manner told that he had felt what it was to be a sinner, and that he was now a pensioner on mere grace. He had the meekness of a Christian. The even placidity of his temper was remarkable. Like his Master, when reviled, he reviled not again. On the most trying occasions, as many here can testify, he indulged in no coarse or angry expressions. He maintained a Christian spirit under every provocation. His Religion governed his temper, nor did I ever hear the language of hatred or revenge from his lips. He entertained no hostile feelings towards those who differed from him or towards those who had maligned him. Nothing but a strong sense of duty ever made him speak evil of the absent. When he could not praise he was silent, and liked others to be silent also. But, though he was thus mild, he was not the less firm and decided; what he saw to be his duty, he resolutely performed. He had a most delicate and deep conscientiousness which bound him fast to what he thought to be right. This, to those who knew him not, might sometimes look like unnecessary stiffness, but was in fact the strength of his moral principle, the authority of conscience within him. He was content to suffer in popularity and in temporal interest in this way, and did suffer, just because his motives were not seen, and so were misinterpreted. In his business transactions he was scrupulously just. The ignorant, the inexperienced, were safe from the smallest injury. The child and the most practised bargain-maker were treated in the same way. He acted the Christian as much in the store and