

liberal benefactor by pecuniary donations, he was a still more efficient contributor by his talents.

The avocations of commercial life, in the metropolis of the British empire, have an obvious tendency to give expansion to the mind, and to call into exercise the generous feelings of the heart. These advantages were realized by Mr. Hardcastle from a very early period of life. Under the auspices of his respected uncle of the same name, he was initiated into habits of commercial activity; and, before he had attained the age of manhood, on himself devolved the principal superintendence of an extensive mercantile concern. The same immutable principles of integrity and honour with which he entered on his career, he maintained inviolate to its close. His high reputation in the commercial world was at length the growth almost of half a century, during which it received no shock—it sustained no blemish; and long will it be remembered, even by many who are unacquainted with his religious character, as a model of integrity that was never impeached, and of honour absolutely unsullied.

As a Christian is the highest style of man, so in this distinguished individual appeared the highest style of Christian character. Eminent attainments in the knowledge of Christ constituted the basis of equally eminent attainments in those virtues and graces which adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour. The principles which his faith embraced, and which gave vitality to his religious system, were the doctrines of the cross of Christ. In the near prospect of the celestial world this venerable man of God expressed the deliberate conviction of his heart when he said, 'No principle can enter into the mind so sublime as the doctrine of the Cross, which, with infinite majesty, speaks peace in heaven, on earth, and throughout the universe!' On the grand and leading doctrines connected with the economy of Re-

demption, he was accustomed to express his sentiments with a precision and an elevation, worthy of one who was familiar with the writings and had imbibed the spirit of Owen and of Howe, and in whose mind the word of Christ habitually dwelt in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. His acquaintance with the sacred Scriptures was accurate and profound. In the circle of his family and of his intimate friends, what judicious remarks would he frequently offer on passages difficult of explanation; what pertinent and original observations would he often suggest from the resources of his own mind; and with what diffidence would he submit for the opinion of others, interpretations of Scripture prophecy, especially in reference to the advancement of the Saviour's kingdom, which combined, in an extraordinary degree, ingenuity with probability! By the vigour of his enlightened mind and the susceptibility of his renewed heart, he was qualified to receive from the study of the word of God, sacred and perpetual delight. Its perusal was the daily gratification of his moral taste. He was alive to a perception of its beauties, and divinely prepared to yield to its sanctifying and transforming impressions. It supplied the materials of his prevailing thoughts, the sources of his highest enjoyments, and the directory of his conduct in life.

The preservation of spirituality of mind, when engaged in secular pursuits, must be allowed to be an attainment as difficult as it is valuable; yet this was one of the excellencies, under the influence of divine grace, which it was the happiness of Mr. Hardcastle habitually to display. Actuated by the most delicate sense of honour in all his transactions, and entrusting all his interests to the control of a wise and gracious Providence, he was a proficient in the happy art of divesting himself of anxious solicitude; and thus, obeying the Divine injunction, 'be careful for nothing,' he expert-