

Christian Life.

LORD ARDMILLAN.

(Born September 12, 1804. Died September 7, 1876.)

BY DAVID MACLAGAN, ESQ.

IN the death of Lord Ardmillan, Scotland has lost one of her foremost men. If regard be had to his social position, by birth and by professional status—to his natural gifts and great acquirements—to his patriotism, his philanthropy, and his high character—we have in him a rare and valuable combination of qualities. And if there be added the fact that these were all sanctified by grace, and during a long life dedicated to the service of God, his death may well be spoken of as a loss of no common magnitude.

This is not the place in which to dwell upon his career at the Scottish bar. Enough to say that from the year 1829, when that career began in early youth, to 1876, when it has closed at a ripe age, he has been regarded by his professional brethren with the warmest respect and affection. After holding the offices of Advocate-Depute, Sheriff of Perthshire, and Solicitor-General, he was raised to the Bench in 1854, on which he has left a vacant place which it will be difficult indeed to fill.

Nor is it possible here to dilate upon his public services in connection with the great subject of Education, in which his deep interest revealed itself, alike in the establishment of elementary, ragged, and reformatory schools—in the wide and difficult questions connected with a national system of Education—in the maintaining of academies for the highest classical training—and in efforts for the reform and extension of our Universities, in connection with which he was a member of both the more recent Commissions of inquiry.

Lord Ardmillan was born and baptised within the pale of the Church of England. When he came to study at the Edinburgh University, he became acquainted with the family of Dr. Andrew Thomson, and occasionally worshipped in St. George's. His inquiring and conscientious mind set itself to examine the question of Church government, especially of the Episcopal and Presbyterian systems; and, as the result of honest inquiry, he was led to the deliberate conviction, which years deepened and strengthened, that in Presbyterianism he found the best security for