

move prejudices, to rectify misconceptions, resolve doubts and quiet scruples.—He repels excuses for neglect of duty, proves the danger of entertaining them, presses his arguments home to their particular cases, with an earnestness that cannot be done with half the effect in public discourses, which are necessarily general. At this visitation, the Minister probes their hearts, awakens the guilty, encourages the timid, confirms the doubting, and establishes the believer.

It would have been equally pleasing, to have known his manner of catechising the children, and gradually preparing them for the public profession of their faith ; for having a meek and gentle manner, he must have been particularly successful.

His activity in promoting charitable institutions, and the education of the poor, together with his attention to the wants of the sick, the helpless and aged, might have afforded matter of great edification, but the space allowed for this article is scarcely sufficient to admit of our noticing his last sermon preached within a few hours of his death.

Mr. Wilkie tells us, “that the sermon is printed without alteration from Dr. Spark’s own copy ; and, therefore, besides other claims of a higher interest, must be considered as exhibiting uncommon proofs of correctness and precision, in his ordinary style of composition.”

This observation would prevent any severity of remark, were the discourse really indifferent, for not having been prepared for the press, many passages may remain, which the writer would have omitted ; and many things might have been added to render it more perfect. The sermon is a chaste practical appeal to his hearers, on the propriety and excellence of living at peace with one another ; and although we cannot attribute the same praise, which the partiality of the Editor to his amiable friend, leads him to bestow, we are disposed to consider it the production of a faithful preacher of the Gospel, who was assiduous in preparing for his Sunday’s duty ; and we will venture to say, that very few sermons published under such circumstances, would be found more polished in the style, or more pertinent in illustration. The Reverend Preacher selects the words addressed by Joseph to his brethren,—“See that ye fall not out by the way,”—*Gen. c 45, v 24*. The Patriarch fearing, that his brethren would accuse one another as they