

his youth. He could say as he recalled the many that have preceded him to the world of light:—

- “They are all gone  
 “And I alone sit lingering here ;  
 “Their very memory is fair and bright  
 “And my lone thoughts doth cheer.  
 “It glows and glitters on my breast  
 “Like stars upon some gloomy grove,  
 “Or those faint beams in which this hill is drest  
 “After the Sun’s remove.”

The closing words of his address before the Union in London in May last may be listened to as his parting testimony. Personal testimony has its value, as Hebrews xi. has made plain, and we may listen to one who for four-score years lived and walked with God.

“I am now eighty-one years of age, and have been preaching the gospel for about sixty, before that I was engaged in Sabbath school work; throughout all of which I can bear testimony to the faithfulness of God. There are things which cannot be shaken, they are everlasting. All the powers of earth and of hell cannot shake them, and they remain. I am not going to say how many of such things there are, (our friend was referring to a sermon preached some years previously before the English union on the essentials of theology and of practice,) but one of the things that cannot be shaken is God’s faithfulness to his followers. I have had trials very grievous, and sorrows very deep, but always from beginning to end He has been true to me, so that I would not change my past history as a minister of Jesus Christ for all the money in the world—or all the honours men could place on my head. I want to bear my testimony as to the graciousness of God, and I want my younger brethren to carry on the work committed to them and to realize that it is the grandest work that can occupy the human mind and heart; that it is the noblest and most glorious that God ever gave to man to prosecute. And now unto Him who is able to keep us from falling, and to present us faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, be glory, dominion and might now and for ever. Amen.”

“Servant of God, well done! rest from thy loved employ;

“The battle fought, the victory won, enter thy Master’s joy.

SITTING in my study, the other day, a copy of the *Daily Witness* containing a likeness of the late Henry Wilkes, D. D., LL. D., and an account of his death, was handed me. And as I gazed on the familiar countenance, I quickly passed down to 1865, and thence over the four preceding years to 1870—for it was during this interval my student course was begun and finished, and throughout Dr. Wilkes was Principal of the College. Some two years previous, I think, to my entering he had been appointed temporarily to take charge, and by ’70, having been relieved from the active pastorate of Zion church and his college relation being made permanent, had thoroughly settled down to semi-nary work. And what work was his! For all these years he gave us our sole instruction in Systematic Theology, Biblical Hermeneutics, Old Testament Introduction, Church History, Pastoral Theology, and maybe two or three other subjects I cannot now recall. At least half-a-dozen strong men’s work all rolled in one, and he near threescore years and ten, more than half of which had been spent as pastor of a large congregation. What wonder then if the Text Books assigned in the catalogue furnished him and us with the only material used during many an hour. Yet he did not always confine himself or his students to the text books, especially in his own proper subjects of systematic and pastoral theology. The text book for systematic theology was “Hodge,” of Princeton—strongly if not toughly Calvinistic, and Dr. Wilkes was a moderate Calvinist. It was hence necessary to subject Hodge to a considerable dilution, and this was done admirably in the lectures. His lectures on pastoral theology, embodying as they did his own large experience, were enjoyed in the class room and have since proved serviceable in the active ministry.

In addition to all this he presided at our fortnightly sermon class and weekly prayer meeting. The one practical, the other devotional, and at both his presence was valuable and valued. In the sermon class it was customary for one or more of the students to bring in a sermon “plan” and subject the plan to general criticism. The doctor was the last to handle the matter, and in a kindly way would criticize the plan and the criticisms on it.

In the devotional exercises his prayer had always in it a spiritual uplift and gave to our gatherings a distinctly spiritual tone.