

shall find it." He has chosen the latter alternative. He did his duty till the end; he died at his post, labouring diligently in his Master's work, and we may well say, "Blessed is that servant whom his Lord at his coming shall find so doing." That such, then, should have been the result we must ascribe to the will of our Heavenly Father. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in thy sight!

We had intended to have made some general remarks on this event, and the duty of the Church in present circumstances. But the extent to which our pages are already occupied, obliges us to defer for another month, and we have a hope that by that time we may have Mr. Geddie's report of his visit to Erromanga.

THE LATE REV. SAMUEL FULTON JOHNSON.

(Continued.)

WHILE Mr. Johnston's mind was in the state described in the letters quoted in our last, he prepared an appeal to the Church on the subject of Missions to the heathen, entitled, "a cry for increased Missionary zeal" which was published in the *Christian Instructor*, and which gave to the Church at large the first indication of the spirit that animated him.

Partly from want of means to attend longer at Princeton, and partly with a desire to be useful, he before the close of the term, offered his services as a Colporteur to the Presbyterian Board of Publication. In taking this step he believed also, that the work was one, which would help to prepare him for his great work. For the same reason he chose as his field of labours, the new territories of Kansas and Nebraska, as he supposed that he would there come in contact with human nature in the worst forms, in which it is exhibited in civilized countries, and that he would have a sphere of labour as like that of a heathen country as he could have in a Christian land. He thus intimates his resolution to his parents in a letter dated January 18th, 1856.

"I am going to Kansas and Nebraska as a sort of Missionary and Colporteur before long. I could have obtained a field of labour here, but I preferred to go there for various reasons, one of which is that the work will be more preparatory for the duties to which I am looking forward. The Board has placed great confidence in me, and given me a situation of much responsibility, also one that affords me many opportunities of doing good. I know not what is before me; all is veiled in mystery. But I go trusting in him who knows the end from the beginning, and who has all things under his control. He has ever been the breaker up of my way, and I trust that he will guide me still. Now there is one thing that I must say to you all, give yourselves no trouble respecting my safety. If I am in the way of my duty (which I trust I am) I shall be just as safe, as if I were in the family circle which surrounds the home hearth. * * I suppose that you will be anxious to know how long I shall remain there. I cannot tell you how long. The future is all a secret. It will depend upon what are the indications of the will of Providence. I shall be very loth to leave until I have succeeded in establishing a system of colportage in these territories."

To understand the nature of the work in which he was engaging, and the dangers to which he alludes, our readers must remember not only that he was going forth as a pioneer in these new territories, but that that winter was the very time of the troubles in Kansas. The great trouble between Free State men, and the advocates of slavery, which resulted in so many scenes of vio-