

Reviews of Books.

THE LIFE OF HUGH HEUGH, D. D., BY HIS SON-IN-LAW, HAMILTON M. MACGILL, *Minister of the United Presbyterian Church, Montrose Street, Glasgow*, Second Edition. Post 8vo, pp 590. Edinburgh : Johnston & Hunter, 1852*

The age in which we live is prolific in valuable productions on all the branches of science and literature. In particular, the biographical publications of the day are numerous, and many of them are deeply interesting. But as it is impossible for any one individual to become acquainted with all, even in this Department, that teems from the Press, it is of vast importance to bring under review such prominent Works as are best fitted for general use ; and especially, should those memoirs of Christian worth and enterprise be pointed out and recommended which present the most excellent models, or afford the most salutary instructions in practical Christianity.

Amidst the multitude of biographical publications those of the faithful Ministers of the Gospel form a valuable class ; and especially where great attainments were realized, and much advantage secured, both to the Church and to the world. Relating as they do to individuals who shone not only in the circle of their more immediate connexions, but who, from great publicity of character, and the employment of their high endowments for the benefit of mankind, made their sentiments and their efforts to be recognised, in their extensive and acknowledged bearings on the public good : and such individuals should not be considered as the property of any particular Church or nation, but should be regarded as having been signal agents of good for the interests of Christianity at large, and should be contemplated as having been citizens of the world.

The great reformers are considered the property of no nation, and of no particular denomination. John Knox, for instance, was a Scotchman, and under God a great agent in the Reformation from Popery. But every Christian Church, where evangelical doctrine is maintained, and every nation where pure religion is practised, is entitled to claim him as its own. The same may be said of many others, both of more remote, and of later times.

Among the memorials of talented, pious and accomplished ministers who have recently finished their labours in this world, and gone to their reward in heaven, and which may be read with profit and delight, we have selected as a specimen that work the title of which is prefixed to our present

*For the following Review we are indebted to a very able Contributor, who had special opportunities of knowing Dr. Heugh, and will do ample justice to the work in hand. We cannot refrain, however, from saying, for ourselves, that that Work is one of a few recently published which reflect the very greatest honour on our Church ; and which for that reason, as well as for the far higher one, that they are eminently fitted to promote the cause of pure and undefiled Religion, we are anxious to see extensively circulated. One may well pity the minister or member of our own, or of any other Church who can read the Life of Heugh without great pleasure or profit. Mr. Macgill had a noble subject, and he has done vast credit to himself by the manner in which he has treated it. It would be absurd to say *materiem superat opus*, but it is not extravagant to affirm that the setting is worthy of the jewel.