THE LAST DAYS OF WILLIAM JAMES. (By James Davies, of Devauden).

"Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good-will towards men."-I cannot better begin a short but faithful account of a youth, whose life was truly pious, and who, at his death, appeared to be favoured by God in a very extraordinary manner. His name was William, and he was son of Thomas and Alice James, cottagers, in the parish of Kilgwrrwg, in Monmouth-shire. They lived about a mile from Devauden. William's mother instructed him, his brothers and sisters, in spelling and reading, and was careful in keeping them from bad company, and in making them observe the Sabbath. I had no particular acquaintance with William or his parents, but remember seeing him repeatedly come to church by himself when he was about ten years of age; and sometimes he had his little brother with him, who died about two years ago. I was surprised and pleased to see a child so young come alone to the house of God; and, therefore, I often spoke a kind word or two to him, and encouraged him to persevere. His father very seldom came to Kilgwrrwg church; his mother was a dissenter.

He told me in his last illness, that even at that time he has often gone home from church bathed in tears, and that he actually felt the power of religion when he was twelve years old. Let us for a moment make a solemn pause, and admire the gracious dealings of the Almighty with him, and the tender mercies of the Saviour, who, through the operation of the Holy Spirit, was fitting and preparing this dear child for an early death.

About two years ago his religious feelings were greatly deepened, under a sermon preached by some stranger; who the person was who was the honoured instrument of carrying on the work of grace in William James's soul, I do not know, but I believe his name

From this time he gave himself up more earnestly to prayer and the duties of religion, as far as the necessary business of a labourer's life would admit of. After he had risen in the morning, and finished his prayer by the bed-side, his father would lose him for an hour or more; and when he came home, the knees of his trousers would be dirtied, or wet, from his kneeling down to prayers where he had been. This was his regular practice, he having been seen by different people apparently earnestly engaged in prayer, sometimes in a wood, at other times under a hedge, or in some private place, where he thought no eye would see him but the eye of God. I have heard from several of my scholars, since his death, that some years ago he was cruelly persecuted by wicked boys, who would laugh at him and call him names, and watch him, and follow him into the wood, and disturb him at his prayers, and mock him wherever he went.

At the harvest time it is the custom of the inhabitants of this part of the country, to go to work in the distant parishes, where the corn is earliest ripe .-They often go out in companies on the Monday, and return home on the Saturday nights: during their absence they sleep in barns, or stables, or wherever they can get shelter. William used to go with them and reap, or rather bind up the sheaves after the reapers, and he was both able and willing to do a hard day's work. At this laborious season, when, poor fellow, he must have found rest very desirable and necessary, he would rise up early before light for devotional purposes; and when the companions with whom he had left home were going to the field they would see him on his knees at prayers. After leaving off their work he would separate himself from them, and they would see no more of him till bed-time.

It is needless to say, that the dear fellow, whose daily walk was with God, was also a diligent observer of the Sabbath, and a regular attendant at public worship, because that was his happiness and delight. According to his father's account he was a most dutiful, humble, harmless, and inoffensive child during his whole life. He caught a violent cold about seven weeks before his death, which turned to an inflammation of the lungs. He had been ill four weeks before I knew any thing of it. Three weeks before his death his father came to me and said, he had a favour to ask me, for his son was dangerously ill, and desired very much to see me. I went directly with his father, and found poor William, who, but a short time before, had been a fine tall robust young fellow as any in the parish, lying in bed reduced almost to skin and bones. Never did I see any one sunk as he was! Poor dear fellow! He shook my hand, and seemed very glad to see me. After talking to him a little, I asked him if read the Bible to him, which I did frequently, and in the world: when they join in loose harangues against enthuonly excepted. I considered it one of the greatest privileges of my whole life to have had an opportunity afforded me for showing any marks of kindness to one of Christ's redeemed ones. His illness was such that we had not much conversation. It was often interrupted, and carried on in such short sentences, that I cannot recollect it as I wish to do. He seemed to me full of love to God and confidence in the Redeemer .-During the greater part of the time that I was with him, he had a violent fever attending his complaint, which was so very severe, that his poor flesh seemed to be almost in a broiling state, and he required something to drink every five minutes.

During the severity of the fever, which was worse by night than by day, I never heard a murmuring or complaining word escape his lips: in his greatest sufferings he would pray earnestly, "Lord, help me!" I would sometimes say to him, "My dear fellow, God will help you; he will never forsake his suffering child: wait with patience a little while, and he will take you to himself, where pain and sickness can never come."

wish to live: I had rather die; for if I should recover, admitted into the Church triumphant. In a word, I must go -Archbishop Leighton. I might fall back to the world." His father and through a solitary wilderness, and conquer many enemies before mother were most kind and attentive to him, watching I come to the land of Canaan, or else I must never be possessed over him and meeting all his wants and wishes with of it. - Bishop Beveridge. tenderness and care. One time he spoke out loud, "I shall die, ay, and go to heaven too, and that is best of all." The last night of his life I sat up with him to about half-past four o'clock in the morning, and such a scene I never witnessed; he was labouring under difficulty of breathing and much weakness, all the while his countenance was quite calm and composed, and very often in smiles. There was so much it is always calm and serene, unchangeable, having no such eblove and sweetness in it, and such astonishing dignity, that he seemed to be above his sufferings, above the world and all its concerns.

given him such peace and joy in the near approach of always the same. Besides, though our love may sometimes death, and in the prospect of eternity. To the best transport us and violently rend us from ourselves and from all of my knowledge and belief he had the full use of his self-enjoyment, yet the more forcible it is, by so much the more reasoning faculties and understanding all the time. - it will be apt to torment us, while it cannot centre itself in that He was so weak that he could not reach any thing to which it so strongly endeavours to attract to it; and when it his mouth, but with great quickness he put his hands possesseth most, yet it is always hungry and craving; it may one into the other, and raised them above his head, always be filling itself, but, like a leaking vessel, it will be aland said, "Praise God!" It is thankfully to be ways emptying itself again. Whereas the infinite ardour of remembered, that in all his pain, suffering, and much | the Divine love, arising from the unbounded perfection of the lamb in his bosom, that no doubt ever crossed his up and rests in the same central unity in which it first begins. mind, and through the whole of his sickness, the tempter was never suffered to harass or disturb him. His uncle and I were sitting up with him his last night, and he reached his hand out to his uncle, and most affectionately shook hands with him, and looking earnestly at him, he said, "Uncle, you do not pray always!" "No, Billy," he replied, "I do not." "O uncle, do pray to God." Some time after this he reached his poor trembling hand to me, and in the kindest manner squeezed my hand in his for about four or five minutes, and with his other hand drew me quite close up to him; afterwards he looked to the top of the room with great earnestness three several times, and once more he looked straight before him with the same intent earnestness, and touching my face, he pointed his finger as if for me to look in that direction at what he saw; I did so, but I could see nothing; yet I have no doubt but the glorious messengers sent to him from heaven were then appearing before him, [if not to his bodily sight, yet to the eye of faith] .-There was a wonderful sweetness and dignity in his countenance. His father then came up stairs, and he caught hold of his hand and said, "Father, I shall have a fine journey to heaven this morning, this very morning!" and that same morning he died a little before seven o'clock. I heard, that after I left him he put one of his feet out of bed, and raising up his arm with great quickness, he said, "Father, there! there is the Lord Jesus Christ! help me to go to him! Whether the Saviour actually showed himself to his suffering child, as he did to Stephen, I will not presume to say: but God's word teaches us that "He is about our bed, and about our path, and spieth out all our ways;" and that He "will manifest himself unto his people as He doth not unto the world."

Immediately before his death he raised his arm with his usual quickness, and at the same time looked up to the top of the room, and he cried out, (to use his own expressions of delight), "Yonder, they be These were his last words, and then sweetly smiling, he died without a struggle or a groan. His sufferings are ended, the victory is won, and "he is more than conqueror through Him that loved him."

The dear fellow breathed his last on the 19th of October, 1838, and he was seventeen years and three months old. His poor body was buried in Newchurch church-yard; and I hope, when I am dead, that my body will be laid in the same grave beside his body for, poor fellow, I shall never forget him.

The Garner.

UNGODLY CONVERSATION. There is another sort, though not so shocking, yet more extensively mischievous: when they, who profess religion, and he rested all his hopes of pardon and salvation on think they are serious in the profession, as surely, if it be a Jesus Christ alone: he said he did, indeed; and truth, it is the most serious one that can be, allow themselves never from that time did I see his faith stagger or fail. inadvertently in saying what tends to its ruin: when they He was not a boy of much conversation. When I speak with disregard of the appointed methods of supporting it spoke to him on the subjects I had been reading about, siasm and superstition without putting in due cautions to disaffection and gratitude as I should not like to repeat, done, with indulgence and pleasure: when they carry on disthe way of salvation appeared to me to be quite clear. inwardly believe; and treat duties with indifference, or even of God's spiritual harvest as a labourer, and labour I henceforth I prayed with him in the best manner I could in my contempt, which at the same time they acknowledge, and, it must to the end of my days, and at the peril of my soul. The and answer your prayers when you offer them in the of even that. Thus is their "mouth their destruction, and ready to perish out of the way. Such are the melancholy conis proper: but there are subjects, on which it is never proper; sence of God in Glory.—Rev. C. Benson. and religion is one. Abruptly intruding grave maxims into the midst of mirth, without any thing to call for them, would be disgustful and absurd. But still, whatever difference of manner different occasions may require, as they certainly require a very great one, we should always continue the same in our gayest hours, that we are in our most serious; and preserve an iformity of character throughout. Nor can there be any character more consistent or amiable, than their's, whom dutiful regard to the greatest and best of beings influences, not only to be just and good in their behaviour, but sometimes instructive sometimes entertaining, always innocent, in their conversation. -Archbishop Secker.

CHRISTIANITY A WARFARE.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HUMAN AND DIVINE LOVE. The Divine love is never attended with those turbulent passions, perturbulations, or wrestlings within itself, of fear, desire, grief, anger, or any such like, whereby our love is wont to explicate and unfold its affection towards its object. But as the Divine love is perpetually most infinitely ardent and potent, so bings and flowings, no such diversity of station and retrogradations as that love hath in us, which ariseth from the weakness of our understandings, that do not present things to us always Here I am called on to remark, that nothing short in the same Orient lustre and beauty: neither we, nor any of the presence and power of the Lord could have other mundane being (all which are in a perpetual flux) are weakness, the merciful Saviour so carried his tender | Divine Being, always rests satisfied within itself, and is wrapt -Rev. John Smith, [died 1652.]

Doubtless it is a glorious eight to see "the trees of righteousness," as the prophet denominates the established people of God, "planted by the rivers of water, bringing forth their fruit in due season," lifting sp their heads to heaven, in all the strength, and vigour, and beauty, which the dews of the Spirit have imparted, and the rays of the sun of righteousness have cherished, and standing unbroken and uninjured beneath the heaviest gale that blows, defying alike the tempest and the flood. It may be a less glorious, but is it not even a more encouraging sight to the Christian, to mark these same trees, "the planting of the Lord," just as they are struggling into existence, their heads for the first time emerging from the underwood, and their weak and feeble stem drawing up from amidst the shelter that has shielded them, bending beneath every wind that blows, and appearing unable to stand the shock, with which the first strong gale shall visit them? It is a blessed and a soul-encouraging sight to the Christian, because in that small and yielding sapling, he sees the stern unbending oak of centuries yet to come, the father of the forest, upon which all storms, all tempests, shall exert their violence, but in vain .-While others think only of the weakness of the tree, he is think ing of the strength and permanency of the root; he knows that far beneath the surface, and far beyond the sight of man, the root of that frail tree has driven its fibres firm and fast into the living Rock, and let the stem be shaken as it may above, all is secure below; and let the hurricane sweep with resistless force eross the forest, and every other tree fall prostrate beneath its arm, he knows that this may bend, but cannot break, and though it stoop to earth, shall rise again the stronger and the nore secure, imperishable and indestructible, for it shall adorn the paradise of God .- Rev. Henry Blunt.

UNTHANKFUL CHRISTIANS.

How many in times of sickness, when God afflicts their body, and death is staring them in the face, are ready enough to make romises of repentance and amendment, if God will only spare them this once! They cry, as the lepers cried before they were healed, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us! have mercy on us, Almighty God! deliver us this once from the pains of death; and we will lead a new life, and serve thee faithfully for the time to come." Such is their prayer, while the sickness is upon them. Well! it pleases God to hear their prayer: he gives them another trial: he raises them up from their sick bed, and and restores them to health and strength. What follows? Do they keep in mind the vows which they made during their trouble? Do they give themselves up to the service of God, and throw themselves at the feet of Jesus, or rather lay their hearts and their sins there, which is the thing spiritually meant? One in a way may be grateful enough to do this. But how many do nothing of the sort! How often, in such cases, has one reason to say, "Ten were cleansed; but where are the nine?"-Rev. A. W. Hare.

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SACRED OFFICE. In describing this awful responsibility of the sacred office, I am but delineating a picture of the duties and dangers which ple of the Lord as a minister as well as a disciple, and receiving and upon the leading doctrines of the Gospel, he tinguish them from the most rational feelings of love, and marks into my hands the awful, yet affectionate, charge of feeding the seemed quite to understand and enjoy it, and thanked of respect, to our Maker, Redeemer, and Sanctifier which Christas a good shepherd, have consecrated my life to me over and over again with great earnestness for tianity hath enjoined: when they, who by no means intend to the service of my Redeemer at the altar, and given up my years, doing so, and expressed himself in such language of be profane, repeat the profane things that others have said or my strength, and my understanding to the holy vocation of it would seem so like boasting in me. His views of course, that reflects upon doctrines, which they themselves gious guardian of the wandering. I have entered into the field poor way, as often as I thought him able to hear me may be, practise, as duties. This unmeaning compliance with vows I uttered were holy, and cannot be broken; are past, and and join with me in it; and he did join in it very fashionable talk, which they might easily avoid, yet not be beyond the power of recall. The faith in which I have been devoutly. Once he said to me, "I wish I could get remarkable-or if they were, it would be to their honour-brings nurtured, therefore, I must teach till I die; else should I up and kneel with you:" and I said to him, "My dear them by degrees to think slightly of what they have been here on earth be counted a burthen to society, become a mark fellow! God sees the desires of your heart, and he affecting to speak slightly of, till their piety wastes away into for the finger of unbelieving scorn to point at, and grow into a will accept them; and you may be sure he will hear an empty form; and it is seldom long before they grow ashamed stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence for them that are Poor dear fellow! I took their lips the snare of their souls." At least they lead others sequences which flow from the idleness or evil of a servant of such an interest in him, knowing him to be a choice into a wrong way, who are afterwards tempted to go farther; God, in this world and to others; whilst for himself he is work-Christian, that I sat up with him the greatest part of they permit themselves to be suspected; they desert the defence ing out at the same time, in the world to come, an eternal union every night from that time to his death, two nights of religion, when it wants all possible help; and are false to with that wretched company of apostate angels who are descritheir own cause. All good men therefore should be very bed to us by Him whose word is truth, as trembling whilst careful, that their outward appearance do not contradict their they believe, and weeping with the wailings of despair at the inward faith. Doubtless there are seasons, in which pleasantry consciousness of their own everlasting exclusion from the pre-

NOVELTY IN DEVOTION.

Whereas some may account it much spiritualness to despise what they have heard before, and to desire continued variety in prayer, it seems rather to be want of spiritualness that makes that needful, for that we find not our affections lively in that holy exercise, unless they be awaked and stirred up by new expressions; whereas the soul that is earnest on the thing itself, for itself, panting after the grace of God and for the pardon of sin, regards not in what terms it be attended, whether new or old; yea, though it be in those words it hath heard and uttered a thousand times, yet still it is new to a spiritual mind. And surely the desires that do move in that constant way have more evidence of sincerity and true vigour in them, than those that Christianity is well termed a warfare, for a warfare it is depend upon new notions and words to move them, and cannot wherein no danger can be prevented, no enemy conquered, no stir without them. It may be, it is another but a false flash victory obtained, without much courage and resolution. I have of temporary devotion, that arises in a man's heart, which comes At other times he would pray, "Lord, create in me a not only many outward enemies to grapple with, but I have by some moving strain of prayer that is new. But when conclean heart. Lord, give me more faith in the Lord | myself, my worst enemy, to encounter and subdue. As for fessions of sin, and requests of pardon, though in never so low Jesus Christ:" and sometimes in his greatest suffer- those enemies which are not so near me, by the assistance of and accustomed terms, carry his heart along with them heavenings he would clasp his hands together, and raise them God's Spirit, I can make pretty good shift to keep them at sword's ward, it is then more sure that the Spirit of God dwelleth in up, saying, "Let us rejoice." "My dear friend," I point. But this enemy that is gotten within me has so ofwould say, "in a little time you will rejoice in a manner ten foiled and disarmed me, that I have reason to say, as David blood of Christ, and the favour of God, do move the heart,

you have never yet done." About a fortnight before did of his enemies, "it is too strong for me;" and as he said of where there is no novelty of words to help it. Beware that in his death, he said to his mother, "Mother, mother, I the chief of his, "I shall one day fall by the hands of Saul;" fancying continual variety in prayer, there be not more of the have heard music, and I have seen three or four com- so have I too much occasion to say, I shall one day fall by my- flesh than of the spirit, and the head working more than the panies in white." It was in the morning that he self, as being myself the greatest enemy to my own spiritual spirit; for (mistake it not), the spirit of prayer hath not its mentioned this, and she thought he had dreamed it. interest and concerns. How necessary is it then that I should seat in the invention, but in the affection. In this many When she told it me, I shed a great many tears, for I raise and muster up all my force and courage, put on my spirideceive themselves, in that they think the work of their spirit was persuaded that my dear friend would not recover. tual armour, and make myself strong in the Lord, and in the of prayer to be mainly in furnishing new supplies of thoughts After this he appeared to be getting better, and his power of his might? I know I must strive before I can "en- and words; no, it is mainly in exciting the heart anew, at times distressed father and mother were in hopes of his ter in at the strait gate;" I must win the crown before I can of prayer, to break forth itself in ardent desires to God, whatever recovery. When he understood it, he said, "I do not wear it, and be a member of the Church militant, before I be the words be, whether new or old, yea, possibly without words.

MONARCHY.

As anarchy is the worst of misgovernments, so monarchy is the best of governments, the most ancient, the most universal, the most natural, the most noble, the most advantageous form of government. I do not deny the lawfulness of other forms, but I do altogether deny that any other form is so noble, so natural, or so much from God. There is one God in the world, a monarchy; one soul in the body, a monarchy; one sun in the heavens, a monarchy; one master in each family, and one monarch in each society. It was good counsel which Lycurgus gave a mutinous citizen, that would have had him bring a democracy into the State, that he should try it first how he liked it in his own house, and suffer his servants to be his quartermasters .-The silly bees do teach us this much, who know no law but the law of nature, yet they have their king. And that which s much more strange which I have seen by ocular experience. Take their king prisoner in a cane, as it is usual to do, and they will feed him with honey through the nicks and crevices of the cane. So long as you detain him there they will never swarm, nor seek for new habitations themselves. Remove him and his prison to another hive, and they will all flock after him, and travail for him. Put a strange king into his cane or prison, and they will be so far from feeding him, that they will stop up all the holes of the cane with wax, and starve him for an usurper .-How much more are the silly bees observant of the law of nature than degenerated men. In sum, the soul of sovereign power which is infused by God into democracy and aristocracy, is the same that is in monarchy. But the organ is not the same nor so apt to attain the end. But God and nature do always intend that which is best, that is monarchy. And in some cases the existence of kingly government is from God, as well as the essence. But God never instituted any other form than monarchical. He himself vouchsafed to be king of his people, and gave them first Moses as a viceroy; Moses was king in Jeshurun. And afterwards he gave them a radicated succession of kings. No Commonwealth hath the like plea for itself. Archbishop Bramhall.

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British Colonist Office, Toronto, May 26th, 1841.

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Toronto, July 1, 1841. The Church

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