

AN ACCOUNT OF
THE LATE MRS. SLATER.

Philadelphia, the beloved wife of Richard Barry Slater, Esq. M. D. of High Wycombe, and second daughter of the late Sir Thomas Cayley, Bart. of Brompton Hall, in the County of York, was early distinguished by a superiority of understanding, and much personal beauty; born and educated in fashionable life, she soon became, and for many years continued to be, the object of particular admiration in most of the gay circles of York and its neighbourhood. At the same time, although of a high and quick spirit, yet this was so chastened by the native sweetness of her disposition, as to render her equally the object of love among the poor, in the village and vicinity of Brompton, to whose wants, both in sickness and in health, she greatly delighted to administer. And it fairly may be questioned, whether viewed among the rich or poor, a more fascinating earthly object could readily be seen. But God, who is rich in mercy, had better things in store for her, on whom he had thus liberally bestowed his natural gifts. In His providence she was led to visit her sister, Mrs. Blackden, at High Wycombe, and here it was that the sound of the ever blessed gospel was first directed to the outward ear, and subsequently sent with divine and saving power to her heart. Her thirst for knowledge, having thus received a heavenly bias, led her diligently to seek every opportunity of obtaining religious instruction, and likewise the conversation of such as she believed were the real disciples of Christ. Although nothing beyond a visit to her sister was at first intended, yet a similarity in their desires and pursuits now determined Miss Cayley to give up all thoughts of retiring into Yorkshire. Often has she been heard to say, how unsatisfying, disappointing, and vexatious were all the pleasures (so called) of the fashionable life, at their very best. That their resemblance to "crackling of thorns" was most apt and just; and that to a rational being merely, there was, notwithstanding all their boasted value, nothing in them but vanity and melancholy degradation. It will then at once be expected, that now, when Divine light was shining into her heart, she no longer sought or could endure such muddy pleasures and gratifications. And so it was, on the contrary, if ever betrayed into any measure of conformity thereto, the painful reflection of inconsistency, at least, was sure to follow. The truth is, she now was rescued from this ensnaring and dangerous world. Miss Cayley had resided but a short time in and near Wycombe, when the sorrowful writer of these lines became acquainted with her excellencies, and was soon richly blessed in marriage with her. This took place in the month of October, 1800. In consequence of this union, she became the valued and intimate friend of the late Rev. Thomas Scott, the Rev. Nathaniel Gilbert, and many of the pious of that day, both among the Clergy and others. She continued to grow in heavenly wisdom, and the effects were beautifully scriptural and adorning. The integrity of her mind was most striking, and the revered commentator before alluded to has often gratified and delighted her fond husband, by saying, that such honesty of character he had rarely found. In the year 1805, she gave birth to a son, but was quickly called to resign that comfort to him who bestowed it. And here the extent and worth of her religion began to shine forth. The blow was heavy—but not a murmur on the occasion, nor scarcely a word beyond that of meek submission, was ever heard from her lips. Her recovery from this confinement was marked by real growth in grace. A firm adherence to the great truths of the gospel, and clear discrimination in all essential points of doctrine, deep humility, love to the Saviour, his cause, his people, his ordinances; pity and compassion for the miserable and destitute, anxiety for the salvation of her neighbours, and the whole world, the most tender love for relations and friends, with frequent prayers that they might be "bound up in the bundle of life," were the prominent marks of grace in this delightful creature's daily walk. The retired path in which she was destined to move, afforded no room for any thing that could dazzle or astonish; but like "the path of the just," it was the shining light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." Prov. iv. 18. The duties of every relative situation were faithfully

discharged, but when reviewed in the character of a wife, she surpassed all admiration and praise; and while busy memory would attempt to trace the loveliness and the countless endearments of her tender and warm affection, a bleeding heart is nearly overwhelmed, and can never cease deeply to deplore the loss of such transcendent worth. Thus she travelled on, one year succeeding to another, producing nothing of display or of a noisy ostentatious religion; but, under many painful vicissitudes, Christ was her support, the Holy Ghost was her guide and comforter, and heaven, with all its glories, often stood open to her view, as her peaceful and happy home. The last year of her earthly existence was marked by more than common evidence of the power, compassion, love, and consolation of our great High Priest. In the beginning of 1828, it pleased God to visit her with severe paralysis, which for a time precluded all hope of any measure of recovery; but the free exercise of her mental powers, and likewise of spirit, were mercifully restored, and these were now indeed consecrated to her God and Saviour. Divine wisdom, submission, patience, faith, love, meekness, were all seen in their most attractive and edifying extent and beauty. Her mind was stayed on the Lord Jesus Christ, and He kept her in perfect peace. The simplicity of her faith was most remarkable, and was seldom, if ever, much interrupted. It has been observed that naturally she was of a high spirit, and of quick sensibilities, but now not only was her temper unruffled, during all the days and nights of peculiar weakness, languor, or suffering; but, with a perfect truth it may be said, that not an unhallowed wave was even once perceived to disturb her peaceful breast, from the commencement of her distressing illness, to the hour of her dismissal from this vale of tears. Thanksgiving and praise to the Rock of her Salvation, mingled with touching pity and compassion for the afflicted and distressed, were the themes on which her spirit delighted to dwell. Towards all her friends and attendants nothing but gentleness and gratitude breathed forth; and now, when the tendency of that disease with which it pleased infinite goodness to visit her is remembered, how commonly it is accompanied with much irritability and impatience, the power of Divine grace most exquisitely beamed forth in the constant composure and serenity of her mind.

Convulsions closed this bright and edifying example of the Christian character, on the 4th of February. "Patience had accomplished her perfect work;" all her sufferings and sorrows are left below; she is securely lodged in the bosom of her Saviour; her flesh rests in hope; and, at the great rising day, awaking in the likeness of her redeemer, those transporting words, "Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord," shall perfect the bliss of her enraptured soul. Then shall she receive that crown of righteousness which God the righteous Judge shall give to all his ransomed church, in that day when he maketh up his jewels. Glory be to God on high.—*London Christian Guardian.*

Dying Testimony of the late Mr. RONNEBERG, Foreign Assistant Secretary of the British and Foreign Bible Society.—"In the immediate prospect of death, the Gospel of Christ presented itself in such ineffable glory and delight to my mind, that the consideration of so many millions, who do not possess, and of so many hundreds of thousands, who do not regard it, brought tears to my eyes. This led me to regard the cause of the Bible Society as of such vast importance, and proved so powerful an attraction in my mind to its object, that nothing but death will separate me from it, while I remain on earth. There is something so simple in the idea of the Bible Society, and yet so grand; for each Bible reveals an Eternity of Bliss for all that receive and obey it. The father of a family, who loves his Bible, may become the progenitor of a whole race of happy beings. Oh, that all who labour with us in this work may be penetrated with a deep sense of its great importance, and carry it on, in the Lord's name, Strength, and Spirit!—My mind is absorbed in my Redeemer, by whom I am upheld every minute. If I live, may I live entirely to him—if I die, may I die in him!—I lay myself down every evening, as one who does not expect to see the morning. Pray for me, I have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, and am like a servant, that waits for his Lord.

SCIENTIFIC.

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF MONTREAL.—The following notice of the Natural History Society of Montreal, is addressed to, and has a peculiar claim upon the attention of Gentlemen of Science, and of research, resident in the British North American Colonies.

This Society, which was formed in the year 1827, and which has but just entered upon the third year of its existence, has already achieved as much as could reasonably have been anticipated by its most sanguine friends; and it promises not only to be of essential service, by promoting the special object for which it is designated, but also by promoting the interests of science generally.

According to the Report published in May last, its collections are—

IN THE MUSEUM.	
Quadrupeds	33
Birds	276
Insects—species,	172
Which have been increased by 205 Specimens.	
Corrallines,	16
Shells—specimens,	273
Botany,	596
Mineralogical,	1211
Miscellaneous curiosities, of art,	61
Do. connected with Natural History,	23

The Library consists of 146 volumes and 4 maps. The expenditure since its commencement is £282 G, of which a balance of only £4 1, remains unpaid.

In consequence of the liberality of the Legislature at its last sitting, the Society has now at its disposal £200, which the Committee have recommended to be appropriated in the following manner, viz.

To the department of Zoology,	£100
To the department of Mineralogy,	25
To the Library,	30
To the instruments of Observation and Analysis,	20
Leaving for Miscellaneous or any unexpected expense,	25
	£200.

The present generous attempt to call into exercise the talents and the research of literary and scientific men, in the British Colonies, and to induce them to open the treasures of their minds, and to display to public view, and for public benefit, the fruits of their research and acquirements, is worthy of high commendation, and we trust it will not be made in vain.

To whatever department of the multifarious works of nature the student directs his attention, the ultimate object should be, to make the fruits of his research and investigations subservient to the general good of his Country, and of mankind generally. In this view, as well as in others, no man should live for himself only; and however deeply he may penetrate into the arena of nature, or into the mysteries of science, his object ought to be, to enlarge the sphere of knowledge, by pouring the treasures he has acquired into the general stock.

We respectfully invite the attention of the *Literati* of New-Brunswick, to the competition here proposed; it offers a field, upon which laurels may innocently and honorably be won; it opens lists into which it will be meritorious even to have entered; it furnishes an opportunity for the exercise of talent and research, and excites to a useful and generous emulation; and we may add, that as it will be highly creditable to the parties engaged, and to the literary character of the Province; so it will be highly gratifying to the intelligent part of the community, should they eventually find, the name of one or more of their number, enrolled among the successful candidates for literary distinction.

City Gazette.

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

NOTICE is hereby given that the NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY of MONTREAL anxious to encourage a spirit of research, and to create a taste for scientific pursuits, have resolved upon offering FOUR SILVER MEDALS for Essays on scientific subjects, thereby endeavouring to rouse the dormant talent of the Province, by exciting a praiseworthy emulation.

For THREE of these Medals, the competition will be open to the public generally, and ONE only will be exclusively confined to the competition of the several classes of Members. The Medals offered are as follows:—

1. A Silver Medal for the best Essay descriptive of the QUADRUPEDS of BRITISH NORTH AMERICA, their