

It is inadequate to the immensities of his desires.—More than the 'consolation of Israel' he does not long for, though he does long for more of it. But

Thirdly. He shall not hunger and thirst always. The days of imperfect enjoyment will soon be over. Then every power will be filled; every hope accomplished; every wish realized. Then, says David, 'I shall be satisfied when I awake with thy likeness.'

The subject thus briefly explained, is—

A standard by which we may estimate Christ. What a life have we been speaking of! But the higher and nobler this life is, the more does it glorify him—for he is 'the bread of life.' There is nothing men so value as life. Even this vain life, which we spend as a shadow—even this suffering life, which we find to be a series of cares, losses, pains and troubles—how we cleave to it! how concerned we are to secure and continue it; how readily we pay the physician that recovers it; how highly we prize the food that sustains it; and, pressed with want, what exertions and sacrifices are we not willing to make to obtain relief! Surely we are not sensible of our spiritual necessities; surely we have no desire after the life of our souls, eternal life, or we should above all, esteem Him by whom alone it is to be attained; and not urge his compassionate heart to complain, 'Ye will not come unto me that ye might have life.'

The subject is a standard by which we may estimate faith. Why does the Apostle call faith precious? Because 'he that believeth on the Son, hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son, shall not see light, but the wrath of God abideth on him.' It is indispensable to our salvation. It is the medium of all our intercourse with the Redeemer of sinners; and if faith be nothing without Christ, Christ is nothing without faith.

The subject is a standard by which to estimate the christian. The world knoweth him not: it knew not his lord and master—and why should the servant wish to be above his master, or the disciple above his lord? He may be poor and afflicted; but a man is not to be judged of by outward things, but by the state of his mind and by his future state.

A christian, without pride, may pity philosophers and kings. He is safe. He is happy. His happiness is not only insured, but commenced. He hears nothing but complaints in the world; and no wonder, since they are seeking the living among the dead;—but he has found rest; he feels satisfaction. He has much in hand' and more in hope. The Saviour is now with him; and soon he will be for ever with the Lord.

'Blessed are the people that are in such a case.'

'Look thou upon me, and be merciful unto me, as thou usest to do unto those that love thy name'. Amen.

PARTICULARS RESPECTING THE REV. ROBERT BRUCE.

Whilst Mr. Bruce was in the ministry, at Edinburgh, he shone as a great light through the whole land; the power and efficacy of the Spirit most sensibly accompanying the word he preached; so that he was a terror to evil-doers. And the authority of God did so appear upon him, and in his carriage, and such majesty was in his countenance, as forced fear and respect from the greatest in the land, even those who were most avowed haters of godliness; yea, it was known with what great reverence King James regarded him, and once said, before many, that he judged Mr. Bruce was worthy of the half of his kingdom.

The great success of his ministry, at Edinburgh, Inverness, and other places, whither Providence called him, is abundantly known. Whilst he was confined at Inverness, that poor dark country was marvellously enlightened; many were brought to Christ by his ministry, and a seed sown in those places which even to this day is not wholly lost. I shall here set down one passage concerning the famous Mr. Henderson, who was brought into the ministry by those high in power, and against the parish's consent, so that on the day of his admission, the church doors being shut by the people, they were forced to break in by a window to get him entrance. But, little after this, upon the report that Mr. Bruce was to assist at a sacramental occasion, Mr. Henderson wished to hear and see him, and therefore went secretly to the church, and placed

himself in a dark part of it, where he might not be known. When Mr. Bruce was come to the pulpit, he, for a considerable time kept silence, as his manner was, which astonished Mr. Henderson; but much more when he heard the first words wherewith he began, which were "He that cometh not in by the door, but climbeth up another way, the same is a thief and a robber;" which, by the Lord's blessing, so greatly affected Mr. H. and left such an impression on his heart, that it was made the means of his conversion.

He was one that had a spirit of prophecy in a great measure, and spoke of many things which afterwards came to pass, as hath been attested to me by sober and grave Christians, who were familiar with him. And divers persons afflicted with lunacy and other disorders, and who were past all hopes of recovery, being brought to Mr. Bruce, and after prayer by him in their behalf, were fully recovered.

He endeavoured, when he was to appear in public as an ambassador of Jesus Christ, to have his spirit deeply impressed with the majesty of that God of whom he was to speak, and with a sense of what high import it was to the souls of men to have the mysteries of salvation unfolded unto them; not with the enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and power; without which he believed the gospel, though in itself the word of life, would never be the power of God to men's salvation. And, therefore, though he was known to take much pains in searching the Scriptures, that he might know the mind of God, by comparing spiritual things with spiritual, and in preparing suitable matter for the edification of his hearers, which he durst not neglect; yet this was the least part of his preparation-work. His principal concern was to have his soul wrought up to a suitable frame for preaching the unsearchable riches of Christ, and making manifest the mystery of the gospel as he ought; that so his Master, by his service, might see the fruit of the travail of his soul, and be satisfied. And knowing that the success of preaching depended wholly upon the presence of God accompanying the dispensation of the Word, and the administration of the ordinances, his manner was to be much in prayer and supplication in private before he officiated in public; pouring forth his heart before God, and wrestling with him, not so much for assistance to the messenger as the message. One instance was as follows: Being to preach on a solemn occasion, he was late in coming to the congregation. Some of the people beginning to be weary, and others wondering at his stay, the bells having been rung long, and the time far spent, the beadle was desired to go and see the reasons; who, coming to his house, and finding his chamber door shut, and hearing a sound, drew near, and listening, overheard Mr. Bruce often with much seriousness, say, "I protest I will not go except thou go with me." Whereupon the man, supposing that some person was in company with him, withdrew without knocking at the door: and being asked at his return the cause of Mr. Bruce's delay, he answered he could not tell, but supposed that some person was with him, who was unwilling to come to church, and he was engaged in pressing him to come, peremptorily declaring he would not go without him. Mr. Bruce soon after came, accompanied with no man, but he came in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ; and his speech and his preaching were in such evidence, and demonstration of the Spirit, that it was for the hearers to perceive he had been in the mount with God. Indeed, he preached ordinarily with so much life and power, and the word spoken by him was accompanied so manifestly with the presence of God, that it was evident to the hearers that he endeavoured, to the utmost of his power, to present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. For though he was no Boanerges as to his voice, using a slow and grave delivery, yet he spoke with so much authority and weight, that some of the most stout-hearted of his hearers were often made to tremble, by having the secrets of their hearts made manifest, and went from hearing him under a deep conviction that God was with him of a truth.

The Rev. Robert Blair, another eminent minister, says upon his first going to preach, he had, by a remarkable providence, Mr. Bruce for his hearer; and as he was desirous of having the judgment of so great a man concerning his discourse, he inquired

what it was, and should never forget his words, they had been so much blessed to him. They were, "I found your sermon very polished and well digested, (which was very easy for one of his parts,) but one thing I missed in it, to wit, the Spirit of God, I found not that." This, Mr. Blair often mentioned to others, and said, it helped him to see it was something else to be a minister of Jesus Christ than to be a knowing and eloquent preacher.

A little before his death, when he was at Edinburgh, and through weakness kept his chamber, there was a meeting of several godly ministers there, upon some important concerns of the church; who, hearing he was in town, waited upon him, and gave him information of those things which caused them considerable uneasiness. After which Mr. Bruce prayed, and in his prayer mentioned to the Lord the substance of what they had said, being a sad representation of the state of the church; at which time there was such an extraordinary influence on all present—so sensible an out-pouring of the Spirit of God, that they could scarcely contain themselves; yea, and which was more strange, even an unusual influence on those that were in other parts of the house, and were unacquainted with the cause thereof at the very instant; one Mr. Weems, being then occasionally present, when he went away, said, "O how strange a man is this! for he knocked down the Spirit of God on us all!" expressing himself thus because, in praying, Mr. Bruce divers times knocked with his fingers on the table. What follows respects his death:

Being now aged, and through infirmity of body confined to his chamber, where he was frequently visited by his friends, to whom the abundant grace of God in him had endeared him, and being asked by one of them how matters now stood betwixt God and his soul, he, with holy confidence and joy, made this answer, "When I was a young man, I was diligent, and lived by faith in the Son of God; but now I am old, and am not able to do so much, yet he condescends to feed me with lumps of sense," meaning by the expression, sensible influences of the Holy Spirit, and abundant consolation.

The morning before the Lord removed him, he came to breakfast, and having, as usual, eat one egg, he said to his daughter, "I think I am yet hungry, you may bring me another egg;" but, instantly after falling into deep meditation, he said, "Hold! daughter! hold! my Master calls me!" With these words his sight failed him; whereupon he called for the Bible, but finding his sight gone, he said, "Cast up to me the eighth chapter to the Romans, and set my finger on these words, 'I am persuaded that neither death nor life, &c. shall be able to separate me from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus my Lord.' Now," said he, "is my finger upon them? When they told him it was, without any more, he said, "Now God be with you, my children, I have breakfasted with you, and shall sup with my Lord Jesus Christ this night;" and afterwards died; death shutting his eyes that he might see God.

Thus that valiant champion for the truth, who, in his appearing to plead for the honour and interest of Jesus Christ, knew not what it was to be daunted by the face and frowns of the highest and most incensed adversaries, was, by his Master, taken off the field as more than a conqueror; and as the reward of much faithful diligence about the souls of others, and much pains and seriousness about making his own calling and election sure, he had an entrance ministered unto him, abundantly, into the everlasting Kingdom of his Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

ACCOUNT OF A REMARKABLE SERMON, PREACHED IN EDINBURGH.

(Related by a Clergyman.)

Some time ago, I was sent for to visit a person named ADAM WATSON, who was thought to be dying. On entering his apartment, I saw a venerable looking old man in a chair, and apparently much distressed from a difficulty of breathing. His daughter told me that he was then a good deal fatigued with the exertion of rising out of bed, but that he would be able to speak to me in a little time. Being told who I was, he said to me after a short pause, "I am glad to see you, Sir, and thank you for coming so