

REVIEW. NARRATIVE OF THE CONVERSION AND DEATH OF J. A. CADOT.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH.

Very numerous are the dying testimonies which, in modern times, have been set to the truth of the Holy Scriptures. It is true, there has been no persecution of the faithful, so as to exhibit men suffering for conscience sake, still there has been a cloud of witnesses, who, in the furnace of affliction, have manifested the character of confessors of the truth. These, too, have not always been persons of mature years, they have been, judging by the memoirs that have proceeded from sorrowing friends, in the beginning of their days, and yet evincing a wisdom and understanding which the mere experience of the troubles of life cannot confer. Yea, and out of the mouth of babes and sucklings, the Lord hath perfected strength, enabling them to be patient in affliction, and to meet the last enemy with humble confidence and joy. Without doubt, the sufferings of the ancient martyrs, for the sake of the gospel, from their peculiar severity, accompanied, too, as they were, with the scorn of the world, afford a powerful argument to convince gainsayers, seeing we have the spectacle of men neither influenced by enthusiasm, which may carry a man a certain way in these matters, nor yet counting the applause of the world, nor coveting its gains, but upheld only by the testimony of a good conscience, that the path wherein they are walking is that which God hath marked out in his holy word, and assured that he is faithful who hath promised, and so yielding themselves to death, rather than be unfaithful to their God. The world hath often witnessed such a spectacle, and, without doubt, the truth appears very glorious and excellent in such eras of the Church's history, and not a few have been so convicted by it, as to renounce the work of persecution, and become confessors of that faith they had sought to destroy. We think, however, that a believer, on a sick bed, in the midst of severe and protracted suffering, comforted by the sure promises of the gospel, and resigned to the will of God, either to live or die, gives a testimony of a like kind to the truth and excellencies of the gospel. Does the martyr shew his firm persuasion of the faithfulness of God's promise, by the things which he suffers, so does the afflicted christian. It is true, that the one might in many cases receive deliverance by simply denying his profession, whereas the other may be beyond the means of

recovery, and therefore he is without temptation on this matter, nevertheless, in the peace and composure of mind he enjoys, he may make it as manifest, that death is stripped of its terrors, and force on us the full conviction, that in death, as in life, he desires only the glory of God. And the martyr does no more. In many cases, also, the sick man is tired with wearisome days and sleepless nights, saying in the morning, would it were evening, and in the evening, would that it were morning; and though thus beset with temptations, to repine at the dealings of Providence towards him, we find him resigned to his condition, saying, it may be, with Job, "what, shall we receive good at the hand of the Lord, and shall we not receive evil?" And, though it is true, the sick man has not the odium to encounter, but, on the contrary, enjoys the sympathy of friends, who may now as sincerely weep with him when he weeps, as they formerly rejoiced with him when he rejoiced. And this no doubt tends to alleviate distress, nevertheless, when we find him unconcerned about his friends in all other respects, saving only, in respect of their spiritual well-being, bearing a testimony to the truth of the Gospel, warning them of the danger of earthly pursuits, and of the evil and folly of sin, we then see a man in whose heart the love of truth is supreme, and who by the same grace would be ready to overcome the scorn of the world for the truth's sake, as he overcomes all that is earthly in the ties of kindred or of friendship.

The testimony of dying believers to the truth of the gospel, though at first sight not so striking as that of martyrs, yet it will be found, if duly considered, to be equally worthy the attention of the careless and secure, inasmuch as it presents to them men possessing strength and consolation when all others have failed, yea and so large and abundant, that (as has often happened) they are joyful in their affliction. It presents to them men in short who with the measure of trouble and sorrow that has been allotted to them have not been overcome; but through their persuasion of the truth of the promises have certainly gained the victory—men full of sensibility, yet content with suffering—young in years, yet in no way repining because deprived of the pleasures of life and health—of strong affections, and yet loving their friends only to prepare them for a better