

to give an excellent and steady example of contentment and resignation to his people.

The third prominent part of Doctor Spark's character, was candour and sincerity.—The Apostle's rule, as Mr. Wilkie justly remarks, "Speak evil of no man," was by him most strictly observed; he had subdued his passions, and was a stranger to malice; he never censured the absent; disliked back-biting, and frequently on hearing it, expressed his decided disapprobation, either by changing the conversation or some expression which, though delicate, was severely felt. Thinking charitably of all men, he was the protector of their characters; and as far as truth would permit, or charity believe, he was ready to extenuate their faults. Interpreting the conduct of those around him by the most generous principles, he never allowed any difference on matters of religion, if truly conscientious, to disturb his habits of friendship and good neighbourhood. A Christian's life, is a hidden life, for none can read his thoughts; and his only aim is to possess a conscience, void of offence towards God, and towards man. This was the case with Doctor Spark, occupied with the duties of his profession, he mixed little with the world, but confined himself in a great degree to the society of a few friends. He was aware of the vast importance of preaching the Gospel, and the great danger resulting from carelessness and neglect. Indeed, no Minister can withdraw his thoughts from the great responsibility of his station. His people are daily departing; what will they be able to say of their Religious Instructor, when they come before the judgment seat of Christ?

It would have afforded much edification to Ministers and Christians in general, to have been informed, how a person of Doctor Spark's excellent judgment discharged the more familiar duties of his Pastoral office. We have seen, that he was a model of contentment, temperance and moderation; these are the very virtues, which it was incumbent on him to enforce in his frequent visits.—It is proper for all Clergymen, and is particularly enjoined by the Church of Scotland, to wait occasionally upon their Parishioners in their own houses, to speak to them of their spiritual concerns. At such times, the Clergyman points out to the heads of families, their particular duties; recalls to their serious notice family miseries, trials and sins: and entering into their situation, feelings and habits, he is enabled to re-