

year he exchanged the quiet and humble work of the florist's garden for the bustle of the garrison, having entered as a private into the military service of Geneva. He raised himself to notice by his mathematical knowledge, and was promoted to the rank of serjeant of artillery, continuing to pursue this branch of science as long as he remained in the army. His anxious desire, however, in his more serious and thoughtful moments, was to be a teacher of religion; and he at length quitted the army to devote himself to the studies which were necessary to his being ordained as a minister. He first assumed the functions of what is called in that country a pastor-catechist, and was ultimately called to the ministry, of which he was so desirous, by one of those Independent congregations in England, whose ministers are received in the Protestant churches of France. He had some scruples of conscience about ordination at Geneva, because the great majority of the ministers of that church had denied or given up some of the vital doctrines of the gospel, justly esteemed by him essential to it as an evangelical system. For the purpose of satisfying these scruples, Neff adopted the resolution to be ordained in London. The ordination took place in the Poultry Chapel, on the 19th of May, 1823, when he "received a Diploma in Latin, signed by nine ministers, of whom three were doctors in Theology, and one was a master of arts." From that time he devoted his life to the duty of preaching the divine word to the scattered inhabitants of the dreary regions called the High Alps of France, which were originally peopled by Christians who fled to these sterile and gloomy mountains and valleys to escape persecution for their religious opinions, and which he preferred to more cultivated regions, that he might gather the lost sheep of Christ that were scattered there, having no

shepherd. Here he laboured during the six remaining years of his life, which terminated on the 12th of April, 1829, giving himself up with the most entire devotedness to promote the temporal and spiritual welfare of his flock. But of the arduous nature of this service, those can have but a very feeble conception who are conversant only with the duties of a pastor in civilized life. Neff found that his work, when he came to have an experience of its duties and difficulties, resembled that of a missionary among the savages. He had to teach them every thing. He had to teach them how to build a school-room; how to use the line and plummet; how to form levels and inclined planes; how to irrigate their meadows, and to cultivate their barren soil, so as to render it the most productive; as well as to instruct them in spiritual things, and lead them to repentance, faith, and holiness of life. There is no doubt, from the whole course of his ministrations among these people, that his skill in secular matters gave him a great advantage over them, and opened up many facilities to communicate spiritual instruction to them, which he would not otherwise have possessed. Herein appears the wisdom of God in calling Neff to be a minister of his word, and sending him to preach the gospel to the rugged and half civilized mountaineers of Dauphiné.

"To form an estimate of the labours which his appointment involved, it may be sufficient to mention that, in order to visit his various flocks, the pastor had to travel, from his fixed residence, twelve miles in a western direction, sixty in an eastern, twenty in a southern, and thirty-three in a northern; and that Neff steadily persevered, in all seasons, in passing on foot from one district to another, climbing mountains covered with snow, forcing a way through valleys choked up by the masses of rocks