

us ministers of the Established Church, and the other four occupying civil stations of respectability and usefulness.

The mortal remains of our nearest earthly relative sleep in the tomb of his forefathers in the ancient graveyard of Falkirk, famed as the resting place of Sir Robert Monro and his brother, both slain at the battle of Falkirk, June, 1746.*

His wife was a daughter of Mr. Ferrier, of Linlithgow, lawyer, who held appointments in the legal department of Her Majesty's Customs there, and married the daughter and heiress of Sir Walter Hamilton, Bart., of Westport. Their daughter Grizzell Ferrier, was my mother, who died at the age of 53.

It may not be uninteresting to the general reader, and cannot be to his now numerous descendants, to peruse one of the MS. letters of this "old disciple," whose hoary head was a crown of glory, and whose children rose up to call him blessed. The one before us is addressed to his eldest son, the Rev. James Burns, of Brechin, father of the Rev. J. C. Burns, of Kirkliston, and of the wife of the Rev. Dr. Guthrie, of Edinburgh.

"BONESS, 18th February, 1812.

"DEAR JAMES,—I duly received your good and precious letter of the 27th ult., and have great cause of thankfulness that I am still able to read it, and say somewhat in answer. Though with great weakness of intellectual powers, yet I bless the Lord I am not worse in that respect than for some years past. But as I am now arrived at the uttermost ordinary age of man upon earth, being 81, I cannot expect to hold out long, and am, therefore, endeavouring to improve time while some measure of health remains, and especially when I call to remembrance the wonderful preservations and long respite our Gracious God has been pleased to continue. It there-

* The epitaph on his tombstone, which is written in excellent LATIN, describes him as "distinguished for his holiness, benevolence and integrity. In life, he was favoured with the love of his family and friends, and in death his memory is blessed." His father, who was a writer, in Falkirk, is described on the tombstone (in Latin too) as an "upright and truly Christian man, who died on the 18th of July, 1774 in the 80th year of his age."