

SKETCH OF THE CHARACTER OF A. E. MONTEITH, ESQ.

Alexander Earle Monteith, Esq., Advocate, died at Edinburgh on 12th January last, and deserves to be held in lasting remembrance. He was born in 1792, was respectably connected, possessed superior abilities, and was highly educated. He considerably distinguished himself at the bar, and attracted the attention of pious persons by his showing himself decidedly religious. He took part with the evangelical section in the Kirk, and became prominent in the conflict which terminated in the Disruption. In the Free Church he was one of those liberal, zealous, and efficient elders to whom that denomination owes so much. In 1838 he was appointed Sheriff of the County of Fife, and proved an excellent magistrate and judge; for a Scotch Sheriff is both. The following is an extract from the funeral sermon preached by his Minister, the Rev. Mr. Rainy, in the Free High Church, Edinburgh :

"In connection with this subject, our thoughts naturally turn to the event in providence which has lately occurred among us. The removal of those Christians who have been placed in more public stations, and have been enabled to render eminent services to the Church, is an event which touches us all,—which is of common interest, and ought to minister to common edification. Our departed friend was such a Christian. He early took up his ground as a believing man. He did so in spite of some peculiar obstacles and temptations; for he moved in a circle in which he had acquired the friendship of men of many brilliant qualities, of much influence, at the hands of some of whom he experienced much kindness, but who did not, then at least, share his views. He took his ground, notwithstanding, and kept it with frank integrity to the end. In common with not a few others who have been useful and honoured, he came under the influence of Dr. Gordon's impressive ministry, and equally impressive character and life. He thus became associated with this congregation; and I need not tell you what a warm and generous interest he took in its welfare. It were no good thing if a course which we have thus, all of us, been called to mark, should end without a Christian interest being felt in the manner of its ending. Accordingly, what shall now be offered will be spoken, not for the purpose of bringing into this place the vanity of mere human praise, but simply with a view to direct aright the thoughts which arise, I suppose, in all our minds, in connection with his removal from among us.

"I will not, then, expatiate upon his endowments, natural and acquired; I will not dwell on the kindly qualities which made him so attractive, and which, in him certainly, suffered no chill from his sense of religious privilege and religious obligation; nor yet on the generosity, the sympathy, and the high honour, which made him so reliable in the emergencies of private friendship. Nay, I will not do more than refer even to his services to the Church, so frankly rendered; to the assiduity and cheerfulness with which he performed an elder's duties in this congregation, and to the benefits his presence conferred upon us in many ways, the loss of which we shall long sorely feel. These points, on which so much might be said, I leave to your own remembrance and reflection.

"I simply wish to say—it is the main thing now—that his public usefulness, his decision in the cause of truth, his interest in the affairs of the Church and of this congregation, sprang from personal religion, and a sense of personal indebtedness to the Saviour. Religion, with him, was not a name, not a mode, not a party cry, far less a system of outward constraint,—it was a believing love of the Lord Jesus Christ. And its