

stances of government as of very minor importance. She never spoke of the advancement of the Presbyterian cause—she always thought of the advancement of the cause of Christ in that and other churches. She often mourned over the lukewarmness of many of the ministers and people of the church to which she more immediately belonged. Its divisions and heartburnings were to her a source of deep humiliation before God, while the evidences of increasing spirituality and devotedness which she saw manifested in some of its ministers was a source of unmingled satisfaction, and a subject of fervent prayer. While contemplating these higher exercises of her spirit, it must never be forgotten that she was all this while discharging in a most exemplary manner the duties of a wife and a mother. She was daily doing many commonplace things, but she was doing them in an uncommon way, and from an uncommon motive.

It was about the month of February last that the disease which ultimately proved fatal began to assume a threatening aspect, appearing in the form of gradually increasing hoarseness. She continued, however, at her usual avocations, and only laid herself up at last at the urgent entreaty of her medical attendant. Her disease rapidly increased during the spring, and it was, at one time, feared that a fatal termination might speedily take place. When made aware of this by her physician, and of the certainty that this must be the result, at all events, before many months had elapsed, she received the intimation with perfect calmness, and expressed herself quite satisfied with whatever was appointed concerning her; indeed, throughout her illness, she expressed herself as having a desire to depart and be with Christ, rather than to remain in the flesh. Her removal, first to Drogheda and then to Blarney, led to a considerable improvement in her general health; so much so, that, on her return, she was able for some weeks to attend at public worship. Gradually, however, she became weaker and weaker; her step became more tottering, and she was unable to walk abroad. After a while, she was confined to her room, and then to bed. Her voice had been reduced by this time to the faintest whisper, and it was difficult to catch what she said. The serenity of her aspect was very remarkable, a smile continually playing over her countenance. In answer to a question once put by the writer, she replied, she never had an unhappy thought. One of the last conversations she had with any one, save her own relations, is preserved in the following notes by the friend to whom the letters from which the above extracts were taken were written.—“Called to see Mrs. Carlile a fortnight before her death. She asked me to sit down, which I did; but finding I could not hear her speak.

her voice being so feeble, I stood beside her bed. After a remark in reference to a friend, she said, ‘I am going to glory—I long to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. His loving-kindness is better than life itself.’ I said, ‘You do not trust to a well-spent life?’ ‘No, no,’ said she, ‘none but Christ.’ I said, ‘We do not like to part with you—we will miss you much.’ She replied, ‘The Lord has many trees here (alluding to the mission) of his own planting, which were not here thirteen years ago.’ I asked, ‘could she give up her little ones?’ ‘Oh, yes,’ she said; ‘though I have the most affectionate husband and children, I can give them up—I have given them to God in the covenant of his love; he will take care of them.’ I spoke of some friends who made inquiries respecting her, and asked, had she any message for them. She said, ‘Give all my dear friends my kind love.’ She then added—‘All I want is patience to wait the Lord’s will.’”

During her last days, she suffered much from weakness and cough. For some hours before her death, she suffered most intensely from difficulty of breathing, but without a murmur of complaint. At last the struggle was over. She fell into a state of unconsciousness, and then quietly fell asleep, about five o’clock on the afternoon of the 30th November.

The character which has been thus imperfectly delineated emphatically illustrates how singleness of aim and consistency can impart power and dignity to a human being. By the grace of God she was what she was, and her character, in its spiritual constituents, is one which is, therefore, within the attainment of us all. May all, and especially those who, like her, are the wives of ministers, have grace to follow her as she followed Christ.

Contributions to the Professorial Fund.

St. John, N. B.

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