

POETRY

For the Colonial Churchman

"THY WILL BE DONE"

Not only when abound,
My health, and friends, and peace,
And when my joys are found
Still to increase ;

Nor when the world's bland smile
Is beaming on my name,
Gladdening my heart, tho' while,
With fairest fame ;—

Not merely then, O Lord,
I'll bow before thy throne,
And humbly say this word—
"Thy will be done."

When pain and sickness wring,
When friends and wealth have gone,
Still I will meekly sing—
"Thy will be done."

When called to bear a cross,
And in grief's paths to run,
I will not deem it loss—
God's will be done.

When I forget Thy word,
Or cease thy paths to run,
Draw my soul back, O Lord,
"Thy will be done."

Hope shall desert me never,
Nor shall my faith be gone,
Nor from Thee will I sever—
"Thy will be done."

When Death his visit pays,
To bid my soul be gone,
I'll sing my Saviour's praise—
His will be done.

Lord ! let the various lands,
Beneath the circling sun,
Be turn'd to Thy commands—
So let Thy will be done.

SIGMA.

BIOGRAPHY.

From the Church of England Magazine.

MEMOIR OF C. GRANT, ESQ.*

"With regard to his efforts to serve religion," says one eminently qualified, from long personal intercourse, to form a correct opinion, and who now occupies the highest ecclesiastical office in British India, "and especially to promote the cause of Christianity among our native subjects in the East - when we consider the extensiveness of the work, and the powerful obstacles by which it was opposed, it is surprising how much he was the means of effecting. The results, indeed, of his labours did not fully appear during his residence in India ; and even yet we may trust that they await a further and a progressive development. Humanly speaking, however, he may be said to have laid the foundation of much, if not of all the moral and religious good that has been accomplished in India during the last thirty-five years. As early as the year 1783, he, in concurrence with two or three intimate friends, transmitted to a distinguished senator in this country an application, or memorial, earnestly recommending the adoption of additional means for the diffusion of Christianity among the natives. About the same time he purchased a church at Calcutta, which had been built by one of the Danish missionaries attached to the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge, and which was thence called the Mission Church. This church still remains a monument of his zeal and piety ; and here, before he left India, he had the satisfaction of procuring the establishment of a clerical friend, who was afterwards, through his means, appointed chaplain to the presidency ; a person eminently qualified for the ministry of the Gospel,

*Concluded.

and whose solicitude to promote the glory of God and the best interests of mankind, was altogether congenial with his own.

"At an early stage of his Indian career, it pleased God to visit him with a succession of severe domestic afflictions, painfully illustrative of the vanity of human hopes, the precariousness of earthly enjoyments, and the awful nearness of the things which are unseen and eternal. He was in circumstances very unfavourable to religious instruction and improvement ; heathenism and false religion prevailing all around ; the partial intermixture of Christianity which existed, possessing little of that Divine religion beyond the name ; his situation ill allowing of seclusion from worldly occupation and society. Yet that season of heavy calamity was blessed to his mind. It led him to the only true source of felicity. He derived, on this occasion, much useful spiritual counsel from a friend, who afterwards became his near connexion, and who was himself the friend and disciple of the celebrated missionary Swartz. Thus, in a soil prepared by the means of grief and trouble, it pleased God that the good seed should be sown ; it was subsequently cherished amidst the silence and comparative solitude of one of the remoter stations in our Indian dominions ; and it produced blessed fruit to the praise and glory of God.

"The deep persuasion of the importance of religion which now possessed itself of his whole soul, did not slacken his attention to his proper duties. On the contrary, he laboured, if possible, only the more abundantly. Let it not, however, be thought that his good deeds formed in any degree the ground of his hopes before God. His reliance was on the meritorious cross and the mediation of Christ. It was indeed a remarkable feature of his character, through his whole life, that, while no man entertained a stronger sense of the obligation of duty as such, or more assiduously strove to discharge with fidelity the trusts reposed in him ; none ever avoided more carefully the ascription of merit to his own good works, or watched with more jealousy against the delusions of that self-righteousness to which the human heart is so lamentably prone, and which is apt to mingle with, and tarnish, even the graces of the most confirmed Christian."

After his return from India, Mr. Grant led an active and eminently useful life, both as a director of the East India Company, and its chairman, and also as a member of the House of Commons. His conduct was marked by an inflexible integrity and honest boldness, which gained the commendation even of those who opposed his views. He was a practical man of business, whose opinion was much valued, and whose counsel was eagerly sought ; he thus commanded an influence which he brought to bear on the subject ever the dearest to his heart. To all institutions that had a reference to the promotion of the Divine glory, and the good of his fellow-creatures, he was a liberal benefactor. In all their proceedings he took a deep and lively interest, and was active in bringing their claims before others. By such his loss was severely felt and deplored.

Mr. Grant though retired from what might be termed public life, for he did not continue a member of the House of Commons after 1819, was still actively engaged in many good works—until the night of the 31st of October, 1823, when he was suddenly seized with illness, which very speedily proved fatal.

From the sermon already adverted to, many most interesting particulars might be extracted relative to Mr. Grant's character and conduct : but the limits of this memoir preclude it. The following quotation, however, powerfully illustrates the opinion which Bishop Wilson had formed of this most valuable and honoured member of his congregation :—

"I am hence led to mention the remarkable spirituality of mind which he maintained amidst a course of severe secular occupation. The apostle has told us what is the real talisman of a Christian's life ; 'For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.' Our lamented friend felt himself to be a stranger and a pilgrim in this mortal state ; he was seeking a better country. His scene of service was on earth ; but his heart, like his treasure, was in heaven. It was scarcely possible to be admitted to any intercourse with him, and not to be struck with his heavenly-mindedness. He freely lent himself, as his

duties prescribed, to the affairs and the communications of the world ; yet it was with a chastised spirit, and under a prevalent recollection of heavenly and everlasting things. And if it be asked, by what means such a frame and temper of mind were preserved in the midst of a life so long and toilsome ? I answer, that it was, under the divine blessing, by the habitual cultivation of communion with the Father of spirits. He was much in prayer, in devout reading, and in meditation. The Bible was his daily study ; and the time allowed to his stated devotional exercises he would never, under the impulo of any exigency, materially abridge. He has been known to press the importance and advantage of these observances with peculiar earnestness on those, who, like himself, were of necessity deeply engaged in a worldly business ; observing, that such a practice, instead of hindering the due performance of their proper duties, would, like the pulse given to the Jewish captives, prove the best incitement to exertion, and truest source of success.

"Above all, he was attentive to the duty of hallowing the Sabbath. It may be observed, that, by a careful performance of this duty, he had, at an early period of his religious career, displeased, and even in some degree alienated, influential persons, in whose esteem he held a high place ; but to the end of life he maintained the same honourable singularity. Nor had he, on the whole, reason, even in a worldly view, to repent it. The declaration of the admirable Sir Matthew Hale, who was accustomed to say of himself, that he always found the week prosper in proportion as he had improved the previous Sabbath, was frequently in our departed friend's mouth ; and probably he could have verified it from his personal experience. He kept the day holy, not by passing through a mere routine of forms ; but by paying a serious attention to its duties both in the closet and in the sanctuary ; by not doing his own pleasure upon it, but esteeming it a delight—the holy of the Lord—honourable ; by considering it as a season set apart for God's peculiar honour and service."

To the latter circumstance, referred to by the preacher, we would especially call the attention of our readers, of whatever class they may be. An habitual sanctification of the Lord's day never fails to carry a blessing with it. Press of business, which must be attended to, is often the excuse for attendance to secular pursuits, by those who are called to fill high places in the legislature ; but surely obedience to the authority of God is paramount to every other claim ; and will be admitted to be so, not in theory, but in practice, by every man, who, like the subject of this memoir, is a Christian in deed and in truth.

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