

"Lord I am thine, but thou wilt prove," she repeated the first sentence of the last verse with much energy :

"O glorious hour!" &c.

It was the last effort of expiring nature, or rather the manifestation of commencing glory. From that moment she sank quietly away, until, at the expiration of an hour, her ransomed spirit joined the blood-bought throng around the throne,—another seal to the ministry of the devoted Payson.

Reader! are the Scriptures so precious to you, that their power to soothe would, in similar circumstances, be thus great? Are your thoughts so pure and heavenly, that even delirium would manifest only that which would impress all around you with the reality of your trust?

"So live, that when thy summons comes to join
The innumerable caravan, that moves
To the pale realms of shade, where each shall take
His chamber in the silent halls of death,
Thou go not, like the quarry-slayer, at night,
Scourged, to his dungeon; but, sustain'd and
sooth'd

By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch
About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams."

March 4, 1843.

FOR THE HARBINGER.

THE HABITS AND INSTINCTS OF BEES.

WHILST the honey bees are engaged in laying up their stores, they have to contend with many enemies, and to surmount many difficulties.

In order to preserve their property, they display such watchfulness, courage, and ingenuity, as would almost appear to be the result of reason rather than blind instinct. Sentinel bees are generally stationed at the entrance of their hives, yet slugs, snails, beetles, moths, wild bees, and wasps with other noxious tribes occasionally enter, tempted by the luscious spoils.

When any of these are found within the guarded precincts, the bees unite to expel them; and this is accomplished without any cessation of the general labour.

If an unfortunate slug trespasses thus, five or six of them buzzing rapidly around it, plunge their stings into its body. The poison is quickly fatal; and standing on the dead body, they exultingly hover their wings, evidently pleased with their victory.

A snail protected by its shell, is not so easily beset, and it frequently succeeds in reach-

ing the farthest parts before they can stop it. Then however they exact a heavy penalty; fixing it in its shell to the place on which it rests, with a kind of glue, termed propolis. Thus secured, it cannot by any effort move, and inevitably starves, whilst its house being impervious prevents any annoyance to the bees from decomposition.

Beetles are more active enemies, and secured in their coats of mail defy the deadly stings, but not the resolution of their antagonists; who drag them out by main strength. Wild bees, and wasps, sometimes attempt a predatory entrance, and serious conflicts, which last many hours, ensue; in which many bees are killed.

Sometimes these piratical marauders, are so numerous as to become masters; when the swarm either quit the hive, or associate with the robbers, to the terrible annoyance of all their neighbours.

Their most insidious enemy is the great death's head hawk moth, which enters the hive in the fall of the year. All the preceding intruders are vigorously attacked. Not so this one. It is allowed to help itself without molestation, and as often as it returns, gorges its capacious body at leisure.

During its visit, it makes a shrill singing noise, and flutters or shakes its wings without intermission. The bees are completely fascinated, but whether by the noise, motion, or appearance, or all these together, is not ascertained. After two or three of these visits, unless some preventive is used, the bees quit the hive for an unmolested retreat.

As these giant robbers are nocturnal in their habits, and visit during, or after twilight, the mischief is not easily detected; yet some active apiists have done so; and provided a remedy for it, by fitting to the entrance, a piece of tin plate, having in it holes punched, just large enough to admit the bees.

They do not always wait for this assistance, for occasionally they have been found to barricade the entrance, as completely, and far more beautifully than man's contrivance, by rearing in the doorway, an arch of propolis, with interstices for their entrance and exit.

There is ingenuity and constructive talent of a kind totally different from anything which we are apt to name instinct; called into exercise on an emergency.

Here are precautionary measures taken to guard against surprise; a surprise too, which the whole swarm are consciously unable to oppose.

Here is the adaptation of means to an end, evident in the material employed; a viscous sub-