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FELIX NEFF,

PASTOR OF THE HIGH ALPS.

The diversity of human character and condition requires a corresponding diversity in the means to be adopted for doing good to men, especially in relation to their eternal interests. It is both pleasing and instructive to mark how Providence fits men for usefulness in particular situations, and then so orders events as to place them there,—sometimes in coincidence with their own expectations and desires, and sometimes in opposition to both. The laborious and successful minister, whose name we have just written, is an instance of this wise and merciful adaptation of instruments to ends, by which God displays his goodness and promotes his glory.

Felix Neff was born in the year 1798, at a village near Geneva, and brought up under the care of his widowed mother. He was one more addition to the number of distinguished men who have owed their first strong impressions to the admirable effects produced by maternal vigilance, and to the lessons taught by female lips. The place of his

birth, and his rambles among mountain scenery, were not only favourable to his health, but inspired that taste for natural beauty which displayed itself in his character throughout the whole of his remarkable career. The contemplative and devout qualities of his mind were also called forth and exercised by the grand and beautiful around him.

The first elements of learning were imparted to him by his mother, and afterward the village pastor gave him instruction in Latin, Botany, History, and Geography. He was not satisfied, however, with the learning derived from books alone. He had a love for what was practically useful; and he therefore learnt the trade of a nursery gardener and florist; and so rapidly did he acquire knowledge, that at the age of sixteen he published a little treatise on the culture of trees. The accuracy and arrangement of this juvenile work, and the proof of deep observation which it manifested, were subjects of no small praise at the time. Having a strong passion, however, for romantic adventure, in the following