

CHAPTER VI.

Reflections upon the whole.

event and draw from it instructive
intelligent beings; and vast must be
that can learn nothing from the dis-
chance. The insensibility of mankind
the moral picture without making a
upon the most solemn of all events,
such will be their case, and their end.

system of general government, to
machinery of all human institutions
heaven are involved in unparvius
complicated to be subject to the analy-
of transitory events is too remote
mortals, or too subtle to be evident to
It is owing to the subjection of all
man cannot hazard a conjecture re-
even make sure of his own resolu-
mystery with the free agency of the
which probably Gabriel's powers are

ely from the previous life of Mr.
ever be placed in a situation like that
er life. But divine grace can con-
depraved habits of the heart, and
influence of truth. Religion organi-
raeter; and Providence prepares the
ne sphere within which it is to move.
part qualifications and generate tem-

pers, to which nature and learning are total strangers; and
in the formation of which they have no influence.

By the history of Mr. Jones, we are taught the edifying
lesson, that "nothing is too hard for the Lord;" and that
he is not restricted to means of a uniform character, nor go-
vern^{ed} by narrow and contracted views.

The life and character of this venerable man, also teach us
the importance and value of a good example. It is a mani-
fest proof of true religion, and of a heart "right with God,
and sound in all his statutes." An example like his, has a
proportionable effect upon the world, and often excites re-
gard where it does not produce conformity. In all ages the
wicked have revered the character of a good man, and have
been awed by it, into the belief of the sanctity of truth. In
those instances in which they have not learned to imitate, they
have at least learned to regard it; and have often been pre-
vented from sin, when it has appeared before them.

The advantage of religion to the individual is great. There
is an inseparable connection between a holy life, and a hap-
py death. God has linked them together; and what God has
joined let no man separate. If we would leave the world in
peace, and die well, we must live like Christians. "Blessed
are the dead which die in the Lord, even so saith the Spirit,
and their works do follow them." No man can reasonably
expect to die in peace; or finally to receive admission into
heaven, who has not previously learned to "follow after ho-
liness, without which no man shall see the Lord." While
wickedness brings with it its various distresses, piety secures
its reward; and even amid clouds and darknesses will exhi-
bit a character, to which mere nature will aspire in vain.

One thing also is peculiarly obvious. Religion matures ta-
lents, which would otherwise have languished in embryo.
Many a man has been called from obscurity to occupy a dis-
tinguished post in the Church of Christ, whose energies would,
but for such a circumstance, have been lost to the world.
This probably was Mr. Jones' case. To religion he owed e-
very thing; and to its interests he was gratefully devoted.