

by it, and advantages accruing from it, that no satisfactory excuse can be found for those who live in its neglect. Let no mistake, however, be made, as if this duty were urged indiscriminately upon every individual. It is not urged upon any person who is not laying religion and a religious life to heart. No; none may dare to do this. But no individual ought to be left without earnestly obtesting him, by all that is great and solemn in death and eternity, to give an immediate and deep attention to the great concern; an attention, for which there may not be opportunity to-morrow; and without which human life, though protracted to its utmost extent, must prove only vanity and vexation of spirit. O, let every reader, whatever else he does, or leaves undone, guard against the folly and criminality of neglecting, by deceitful procrastinations, the GREAT SALVATION.

THE ROCK OF GIBRALTAR.

In ancient times Abyla on the coast of Africa, and the rock of Gibraltar, then known as Calpe, formed what was called the Pillars of Hercules. When Tarif Zares, in the beginning of the eighth century, landed and erected a fortress on the rock, he gave it a new name, Gibel Tarif, or the mountain of Tarif, from which it derived its present appellation. Gibraltar was a place of considerable and of increasing importance during the period of the Moorish occupation on the Spanish peninsula. In the fourteen century it was taken by Ferdinand of Castile, but shortly afterwards was recaptured by its former masters. It was attached to the Spanish dominion about the year 1492; from that date down to its capture by the English the history of Gibraltar is unimportant and uninteresting. It was taken by the English in 1704, and was secured to the British Territories by the peace of Utruchet. Gibraltar was blockaded for some months in 1727 by the Spaniards, but the most memorable attack which it sustained is that which began in 1779 and ended in 1783.

Of this memorable defence, under General Elliott, the following are the principal particulars: The garrison varied from five to seven thousand men: the first operation took place in July, 1779; they were continued through that year, also in 1780, and 1781. During this period the garrison was deprived of regular communication with England, and could only be relieved by the arrival of a powerful fleet; this was effected twice—once by Admiral Rodney, and subsequently by Admiral Darby. At last, 1782, the Spaniards, aided by a powerful fleet and army from France, determined to make a grand attack by floating batteries; this took place on the 13th September, but was wholly defeated by the effect of red-hot shell from the garrison. The preparations for the grand enterprise were beyond all example. It was said that no less than twelve hundred pieces of heavy ordinance of various kinds had been accumulated before the place for the purpose of attack by sea and land. The quantity of gunpowder was said to exceed 83,000 barrels. Forty gun-boats, with heavy artillery, as many bomb ketches with twelve-inch mortars, besides a large floating battery, were all destined to second the efforts of the great battering ships. The combined fleets of France and Spain, amounting to