

The spiritual history of a "man of God" properly dates from the time when, by the mysterious but mighty agency of the Holy Spirit, he is renewed after the image of Him that created him in righteousness and true holiness. This is that great and decisive change which marks the transition of the penitent seeker of salvation from death to life—his deliverance by the Father from the power of darkness, and translation into the kingdom of the Son of His love. In virtue of this blessed change his faculties acquire a new development; he enters into new relations to Him of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named. Sin having no longer dominion over him, he is placed under the dynasty of holy principles, which, if he receive not the grace of God in vain, will reign through righteousness unto eternal life. What a momentous epoch! Well may its circumstances be ineffaceably impressed on the memory of the regenerate heart! Thus it was with our venerable Brother who has fallen asleep in Jesus. Referring—in a brief epitome of his religious experience, written a short time previous to his death—to the time and place of his spiritual birth, his words are: "Glory be to God! I can testify this to be a genuine work of grace, after a trial of upwards of fifty years!"

Mr. Croscombe's piety was of a peculiarly attractive type. It was pre-eminently fitted to extinguish in those who witnessed his joyous alacrity in the service of his Divine Master, the unjust suspicion, that religion is unfriendly to present happiness. The benignant radiance of his countenance, which almost invariably reflected the interior sunshine of the soul; and the elasticity with which his spirit—naturally sensitive though it was—threw off the pressure of trials and afflictions, and armed itself for new enterprises of duty, attested the resources of a life hid with Christ in God. The joy of the Lord was his strength; and in felicitous combination with a constitutional amiableness of disposition, it imparted to his example a more than ordinary degree of the *beauty* of holiness. The doubts and apprehensions that overshadowed his mental serenity at times during his last illness, cannot be regarded as affording a true index of his spiritual state, or as at all inconsistent with what I have expres-