

held in the society required a man of a large and liberal mind: and such he was, in the best sense of the word. His was not that spurious liberality which looks upon all creeds with equal indifference, and regards all as equally unimportant; his own views were clear and decided; he was in heart, as well as by profession, cordially attached to the doctrines and discipline of that church, of which he had the honour to be a minister — But, upon matters of inferior moment he loved not to dwell: his delight was, without compromising any of his principles, to contemplate the points upon which Christians can agree, rather than to provoke debate on those in which they may differ: and, instead of indulging a spirit of harshness, even toward those whose sentiments he totally disapproved, his conduct was uniformly that of candour, and kindness, and benignity.

I have hinted at certain painful circumstances, which, in addition to the weight of his ordinary labours, very frequently came upon him from some hostile quarters. This is not the place in which I could persuade myself to enlarge upon such a subject; and, were not the fact too notorious to be entirely overlooked, I should have passed it over in silence. It is consoling, however, to observe, that the hostility which your valued minister was called to sustain, arose entirely from his attachment to the important work in which he was so assiduously engaged, and from the diligence and success with which he pursued it; and if he had a personal enemy, that enemy had most assuredly a friend in him: in his mind, no feeling of harshness could ever remain.

“I have witnessed, with no little pleasure,” observes a common friend, “his conduct and demeanour when he was provoked into—I should rather say, for it is THAT which I mean,

when he bore with unperurbed and inexhaustible good humour, what would have provoked almost any other man; and when he suffered to remain in the quiver, arrows which he could have sent forth with unerring aim and vigour.” I have, myself, seen him on many such occasions: and a harsh or unbecoming word never, in my presence, fell from his lips. The only feeling, I am persuaded, that he ever entertained toward his most determined opponents might be expressed in the words of our liturgy. “That it may please thee to forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to turn their hearts; we beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.”

The pain arising from this unremitted hostility was, doubtless, much alleviated by the kindness of his numerous friends. There was, indeed, something in his character and deportment peculiarly suited to gain the affections of all that approached him: and seldom has any man, within the circle of his acquaintance—a circle, which included some of the most distinguished individuals both in church and state—been more highly esteemed, or more generally beloved.

It must be acknowledged, that even the most judicious friends may form an incorrect estimate of the religious character and Christian virtues of those who stand high in their affectionate regard. To see the interior of a person's mind, we should follow him into retirement; and, by doing so, as far as it is possible in this case, we shall, I think, discover much evidence of a mind devoted to God.

Among the papers of our late valued Friend, I find one which he kept for some years suspended in his Study, containing a few verses of Scripture, calculated to give him courage and confidence when in great hazard of being tempted to unfaithfulness in his Ministerial duty.

For instance: *There is no wisdom,*