

worship, which was done, by subscription, in 1801.

The fame of his talents continued to extend itself, until by the addition to his hearers of many individuals and families from the town and neighbourhood— one family from a distance of sixteen miles—the meeting-house became as well filled as before its enlargement. Members of the University also frequently attended Mr. Hall's preaching; and as he preached his greatest sermons in the afternoon, and they attended the University church in the morning, it was not unusual to see fifty or more of them at the afternoon service, having shortened their dinners at the College-hall for the sake of enjoying a more mental and sacred repast. Among them were noticed several who are now popular and useful clergymen in the Established Church, and some of our senators, who received their first lessons in eloquence from the lips of Mr. Hall.

His ministry was a blessing to Cambridge. The state of religion in the congregation when he undertook the charge of it, was exactly such as was likely to receive benefit from one so qualified. His extraordinary powers were well adapted to instruct and delight a people who had enjoyed the labours of his eminent predecessor; while the seriousness of his spirit in the pulpit, combined with the cheerfulness and vivacity of his general demeanour, deepened the effect of his public addresses. His very hesitation on two or three points of inquiry, in the beginning of his ministry, gave him an advantage at the time, of which he availed himself to good purpose in future investigations, and the fruits of which afterwards appeared, as his own views expanded, and his heart became more deeply imbued with the spirit and the principles of genuine christianity. The warmest of his admirers, and the most devoted of his friends, among his flock at Cambridge, would, I am persuaded, be the most ready to acknowledge, that to him, under God, they were indebted for the elevation of their piety, their increase in religious knowledge, and their firmer establishment in the peculiarities of christian truth.

Towards the close of the year 1804, it pleased providence to afflict Mr. Hall with a distressing malady, which interrupted his labours for some months. The estimation in which he was held, was expressed by the deep and universal sympathy with which his case was regarded, not only in the congregation and the town, but in the University and the surrounding country, as well as among his friends at a distance. Intense agony pervaded the minds of all who knew him, and in an extraordinary degree; inquiries after his health were perpetual, and from all

quarters; and every one felt and acted as though a near relative, or bosom friend, were in immediate and extreme danger. But I must pass over a scene which I cannot touch without suffering emotions in my mind too strong for utterance. It may suffice to say, and justice requires that it should be stated, that the sympathy excited by Mr. Hall's illness, did not evaporate in feeling, but displayed itself also in a more substantial form. By the exertions of his friends at Cambridge, aided materially by those residing at Bristol, and by some in London, a fund was raised, and an annuity purchased, which contributed very greatly to the comfort of his future life, and possibly to its prolongation. During his illness, accounts were regularly transmitted to the church by a kind friend; and if any stranger had wished to learn the ardour of the affection which was borne towards Mr. Hall, he needed only to witness the intense anxiety with which these accounts were listened to, when they were read from the pulpit at the close of the morning service.

On the recovery of his health in the spring of 1805, he returned to his charge, and endeared himself, if possible, still more to his friends and the congregation, by his increased solicitude for their eternal welfare, and the growing spirituality of his own mind. His return was hailed with a pious rapture, of which those only can form an adequate conception, on whom an invaluable blessing, which they had feared was lost for ever, has been a second time bestowed by the hand of God.

But his permanent connexion with Cambridge was now approaching its termination, just at the time when his friends were more than ever rejoicing in his light, and when they were looking for the matured and abundant fruits of his long and faithful labours among them. In the inscrutable dispensations of Him whose ways are past finding out, Mr. Hall was visited by a recurrence of his disorder with exacerbated violence in November, 1805; and although he recovered in great measure from this attack, it was deemed by the faculty essential to his complete restoration, that he should lay aside all public labours, and abstain as much as possible from all strong excitement. The consequence of these events was his resignation of the pastoral office, on the 4th of March, 1806, which was communicated by him to the church in a very affecting letter. This was received with the most pungent sorrow, followed by that resignation to the divine will which christianity inspires.

Having spent some time among his friends in Leicestershire, he took up his residence at