

gravated iniquities spiritual death has not yet set upon us its irretrievable seal, if even still, deep as are our depression and nakedness and poverty, there is found in us some good thing, however small, toward the Lord our God, let none of us harden our hearts against him by casting from us the observance of our approaching appointed fast, but let each one of us, wholly forgetting what other men will think or say of us, "set our face unto the Lord God, to seek him by prayer and supplications, with fasting," and with confession of our own sins, and of the sins of our people. And blessed shall we be in our deed. Verily we shall have our reward. The God whom we seek will turn from the fierceness of his anger towards us. Great as our past provocations have been, he will not enter in among us to destroy, for he is God and not man. He will revive us again, that his people may rejoice in him; he will shew us his mercy, and grant us his salvation. The holy mountain of our God for which we present our supplications before the Lord will not be forgotten by him forever, but will yet be "established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it." While the way of the wicked shall perish, the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous; he marks and keeps his own, nor will suffer them to be hurt when "he cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquities" Thus run the several commissions to the man clothed with linen, which had the writer's inkhorn by his side, and to his five companions who had every one his destroying weapon in his hand. To the one the Lord said, "Go through the midst of the city, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh

and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof. And to the other he said in mine hearing, go ye after him into the city, and smite; let not your eyes spare, neither have ye pity: Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children and women; but come not near any man upon whom is the mark."

K.

M.

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*From the Scottish Christian Herald.*

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF  
THE REV. SAMUEL RUTHERFORD,

Principal of St. Mary's College, St. Andrews.

Considerable doubt exists as to the birth-place and parentage of this celebrated divine: the most probable opinion, however, is that which has been stated by Wodrow, that he was sprung of poor and honest parents in Teviotdale. Where he received his early education, has never been ascertained; but he seems to have given such indications of talent, as to have encouraged his parents in affording him an opportunity of still farther prosecuting his studies. Accordingly, in 1617, he was sent to the University of Edinburgh; and in four years, he obtained the degree of Master of Arts. At college, Rutherford distinguished himself among his fellow-students by his attainments, particularly in classical literature; so that, in two years after he had received his degree in the Arts, he was elected Professor of Humanity.

At the time when he was admitted a regent, the university, though it had only existed for forty years, had attained no small celebrity, and possessed, among its Professors, some men of fame and of extensive scholarship. With such associates Mr. Rutherford entered upon his important duties with enthusiasm and energy; and there is little doubt that he must have proved a most able and successful teacher.