

particular notice taken of his private life, his peculiar temper, dispositions, and habits.

The present sermon rather glances at than illustrates or enforces the doctrines and exhortations which naturally flow from the text, "Be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises," Heb. c. 6, v. 12. and hastens to delineate the character of the deceased.

The Preacher modestly observes :

"In the account which I may be expected to give of our late and much regretted Pastor, I can say little that is new to any of you ; but it is easy for us all to remember much, and it may not be unprofitable for us to proceed for once in our recollections in the same strain." This is a very neat manner of introducing his subject.

He then states, that Doctor Spark had the benefit of a regular University education, had received orders in the established Church of Scotland; and had discharged the duties of a Minister, laboriously and faithfully for thirty years.

In speaking of his knowledge, Mr. Wilkie remarks, that it was not confined to that of a professional nature, in which he was very conversant, but extended to other subjects. It would have been gratifying to have mentioned those branches of Science, in which he delighted, particularly Botany and Mathematics, in which, Doctor Spark was known to excel.

The virtues of his private life, the Preacher refers to two principles, from which they appeared to flow, a native humanity of heart, and unaffected piety. In pursuing this division, many excellent observations are made, but of too general a nature, and therefore applicable to thousands as well as the person to whom they are especially ascribed.

In speaking of Dr. Spark's public instructions, Mr. Wilkie is more successful, and notices many important topics, which he was in the practice of pressing on the attention of his hearers; but in his answer to the question, Whence arises this dread of sudden death? we cannot altogether concur. It may arise, as he says, in many instances, from a secret suspicion, that all is not right within, and because we still harbour some darling passion which we wish to indulge a little longer, but of which we are desirous of repenting in our last moments. That persons of this des-