

writer regrets that the limits of this sketch forbid his giving any extracts from that valued correspondence by which he was accustomed to counsel and cheer his friends while seeking to serve Christ in heathen lands.

For many years Mr. Barclay was in the habit of preaching once every Lord's day at Irvine, a considerable town in the neighbourhood of Kilwinning. After a time, to suit the convenience of the majority of the members, the Church removed to Irvine altogether; and there Mr. Barclay finished his life of disinterested consecration to the service of God.

Mr. Barclay's family, like most others, was frequently visited by the messenger of death. When a student in Glasgow, he lost his first-born son, who died in infancy. His second son, Robert, a youth of decided piety and great promise, died suddenly at Glasgow, in August, 1822, in the 23rd year of his age. In November, 1824, the Lord removed his beloved wife, who died in the faith of Christ, after a continued and painful affliction, which she bore with Christian patience and resignation. In June, 1837, his only surviving son, William Carey Barclay, died at Serampore, in the faith and hope of the gospel, after being usefully employed in that important station, for upwards of seven years. This latter stroke, though it had long been expected, fell heavily on the heart of the aged parent. He bore it, however, with holy acquiescence in the divine will. When the tidings reached him he was at Liverpool, whither he had gone on behalf of the Mission; and he announced the event to the family at Irvine in the following letter to Mrs. Leechman:—

"MY DEAR MARY,—I write at present, lest you should not have heard from India, to say that Mr. Mack had a letter from Mr. Marshman this forenoon, dated the 7th of June, in which he says, that 'Carey was then just breathing out life.' And on the 9th, he writes a postscript, saying, that 'he died tranquilly yesterday morning at half-past

one,' and that 'his widow is wonderfully supported under her affliction.' Our heavenly Father cannot err. His will is good. It is meet we should say, *Let it be done*. I should have liked had I been at home when these tidings reached Hamelfield; but God has seen it right we should be apart from each other. I hope and pray that we may be enabled, with reverence for God, and confidence in him, and resignation to him, to receive this from his gracious and unerring will, and to feel pleased with whatever pleases him. He has long been preparing us for such an issue; let us not meet it as an unexpected or untoward event, but as one in which there is much to make us grateful and glad, since we doubt not he has gone to be with Christ, which is far better. In this dispensation, like all the others that have passed over us, our light afflictions have been so strongly impregnated with infinite goodness and mercy, and distinguishing favour, as to make us forget the bitter, because of the sweet infusion with which it has been mixed. Oh! let us show how much we are pleased with his procedure! He has not dealt with any family we know as he has done to us; and Holy is his name."

The last public event in which Mr. Barclay took any very lively interest was the union of the Serampore Mission with the Baptist Missionary Society. To accomplish this desirable object he visited London in December, 1837, as one of the deputation to the Society; and none rejoiced more than he at the amicable agreement that was thus, in the Providence of God, so happily brought about. He considered it a peculiar honour to have been instrumental, in any degree, in helping forward this auspicious event. The writer recollects with what pleasure he frequently quoted the words of Isaiah, and applied them to this subject, "*And thou shalt be called, The Repairer of the breach, The Restorer of paths to dwell in;*" and often did he rejoice, that they were applicable to him and others, who were honoured to promote this union.

After this it soon seemed as if his work was done. His mind and body began evidently to be giving way. He took little apparent interest in any thing but his immediate duties as a minister of Christ. He spent much