

of a right understanding, and if it were possible, of some due regulation of such engagements; for, as it is, they too frequently furnish food for the world's scandal instead of ministering to the church's strength.

Though enfeebled by age and affliction, and weighed down by many sorrows, this veteran soldier of Christ died with his armour on. On the afternoon of September 4th, 1854, he returned home from a walk in the town, at about four o'clock:—

"He went into his study, and sat down to write several letters. He had directed an envelope to his eldest son, and was about to write, making definite arrangements for a contemplated visit to Bourne on the 19th instant. Other envelopes were directed, and one note was just commenced; but only a few words were written, when his hand, in the gentlest possible manner, was arrested by the resistless stroke of death. He was found by his youngest daughter, who was surprised at his not coming down to tea, seated at his library table, his head resting upon the desk, his spectacles undisturbed, and his pen still in his hand. The act of dissolution appeared to have occurred, without a struggle or a pang, the countenance betokening perfect repose and tranquillity. . . The very last words he wrote were in acknowledgment of a donation of five guineas from another gentleman to the funds of that society which he had been instrumental in establishing, and over whose interests he had watched with a solicitude that only terminated in the very article of death."—(P. 386.)

That a life so honorably spent should be closed amid the general homage of men, is, or at least ought to be, only a matter of course. All Derby was affected at Mr. Pike's decease. Episcopal clergymen vied with Dissenting ministers in paying respect to his memory; multitudes of strangers joined in the long-drawn-out funeral procession; while both the pulpit and the press proclaimed his praise and deplored his loss. For this "Memoir and Remains," too, not a few will be grateful. It was right that the very fragments should be gathered up for the sake of those to whom every fragment will be precious. But there is a wider circle still, there are the millions to whom the "Persuasives" have made, and will make Mr. Pike's name familiar as a "household word,"—for them, and for a yet larger class who perhaps will never look at a book of religious exhortation, but who cannot fail to be attracted by a beautiful life, it is very desirable that the story of that life should be told again, and that the man, the preacher, the author, the mission-labourer,—his soul instinct at all times with holy devotedness and benevolent zeal,—should be briefly but vividly depicted to the world. For such a task worthily performed, the world itself will in due time, be thankful.

From Evangelical Christendom.

HOPEFUL INDICATIONS OF SPIRITUAL LIFE.

Bonn, June 2, 1855.

25, Weber Strasse.

MY DEAR BROTHER—You will be glad to hear that the Church in Germany, is continuing to show signs of life in this land of the Rhine, so full of exciting historical remembrances. This internal life of God in the souls of men is making itself felt and manifested in many ways, both in the established church and among Dissenters. I mention the following facts:—

1. It is a fact that, in the upper classes there is a longing after the pure truth of God, such as for many years has been unknown here. I speak not of all, or

even of the most, but of many; and even this is a sign of the times, when we consider that, formerly, every man who boasted of a liberal education, and a smattering of philosophy, rejected with scorn the saving doctrines of Christianity. The person of the Redeemer was despoiled of its glory, and the wonders of redeeming love designated contemptuously the "Blood theory of the fanatics." Now, in many cases, it is altogether different; and I know many respectable families where prayer, reading of the Word of God, and daily family worship are being introduced. This is truly a token for good, and should lead us in deep thankfulness to the throne of grace.

2. It is a great fact, that the Dissenters from the Established Church, Mr. Oncken and others, have exercised a most healthful influence over the members and ministry of that Church. Indeed, I have, myself, no hesitation (though an Establishment man) in saying that a main part of the present religious movement in this land is, under God, to be attributed to Mr. Oncken and the Baptists. They gave the impulse, and others helped, and are still helping, to diffuse over the land the rising tide. Many people went to hear their preachers, not because they wanted to be re-baptised, but because they wished to hear the Gospel faithfully and earnestly preached.

3. The annual conference of the pastors of the Rhine provinces, met here last Wednesday, under the presidency of Mr. Von Bethmann Hollweg. The Assembly was numerous and brotherly, and manifested very clearly that the old ecclesiastical forms do not suit the convictions and intelligence of the age. The first discussion was on the rite of confirmation, which is still retained in the German Protestant churches. The facts are these: the law of the land has appointed fourteen as the legal age for confirmation, though the rite may be performed later in some cases; till this is done, they have none of the rights of citizenship, so that a servant cannot get a place, or an apprentice a master; before they are confirmed they must profess their faith in the Redeemer, according to a given formula. These facts, taken together, have brought many of the German pastors to the conviction that the present mode of confirming is conducive to hypocrisy and falsehood. This was asserted unanimously in the conference. It was proposed to separate the act of confirmation altogether from the rights of citizenship, and that the State should accept instead of it the *pastor's certificate* that the candidates were instructed in the Christian religion. This, however, was felt to be too bold in a matter that belongs formally to the State. It was finally concluded that the pastors should give more time and diligence to the teaching and training of the young before admitting them to confirmation and the Lord's Supper. They then discussed the subject of improper marriages, and the Bonn mission; which were interesting, mainly, because they show that the German Church is fully awake to the evils in which she is involved, and diligently setting herself to remove them.

4. It is a fact that the Bible is becoming the standard to which reason, conscience, and all human convictions must bow. This change is proved by the things which come within the range of my own observation: (1) the earnest orthodox pastor, or professor, is always preferred to the speculative rationalistic one; (2) a number of theological students have written essays on the "blessings of the free circulation of the Scriptures." The tone in these essays is excellent, and I have no doubt they will be blessed of God. (3) At the last "Kirchen-