

mourners? It is not because a country has lost a patriot—a clan its chieftain—a family its head and stay. Far more than all this you mourn. A Christian flock has been bereft of its beloved Pastor;—the cruel hand of death has been here, and snatched away the foremost and most useful among you. He whom you esteemed as a Christian and as a Pastor; who preached unto you the word of the LORD, and whose faith you felt you could follow; who loved you, and watched over your souls as one that should give account; and whose "heart's desire and prayer to God for you was that you might be saved;"—he has been called away from his solemn charge. The light, in which you once rejoiced and were blessed, is now extinguished, and it is difficult to repress the sigh, or escape the pang of sorrow, when so much of what is excellent, pure, lovely and capable of delighting and blessing, is taken away from us. How appropriate on this mournful occasion are the Saviour's words! Of you and your late Pastor it may be said—"He was a burning and a shining light; and ye were willing, for a season, to rejoice in his light." And though sorrow hath filled your hearts because he is now no more, yet you have many reasons for thankfulness. While among you, he adorned the gospel of God, his Saviour, in all things; preached the truth as it is in JESUS; was faithful, as a servant in his master's house; and finished his course in peace and joy. "He was a burning and a shining light;" but now he is numbered among the past—among those that *were*: he *was*—nay, he *is* still—"a burning and a shining light," not here, but in heaven, for when he disappeared from your firmament, it was to enter on his own proper sphere above; and though his course with you was very brief, yet