THE CHRISTIAN OF FOURSCORE: A MEMORIAL OF MRS. DRIFFIELD

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MRS. DREWETT

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A MEMORIAL

OF

MRS. DRIFFIELD.

BY MRS. DREWETT.

"Let me live and die a witness for heart-felt religion."

London:
SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, AND CO.
KIDSGROVE: THOMAS WARDLE.

1864.

PREFACE.

To gather up "whatsoever is lovely and of good report," in the lives of departed christians, is a pleasing task; for "the memory of the just is blessed." It is possible that the immediate friends of the subject of this sketch may regret that these Memorials have not appeared earlier, but the *principles* which were developed in her life and death *remain the same;* and if by reading these pages any one should be stimulated to earnest living for God, the object for which she lived will be accomplished:—the glory of her Saviour, and the good of her fellow-creatures.

E. D.

KIDSGROVE,
July 4th, 1864.

THE

Christian of Fourscore,

IN LIFE AND IN DEATH.

CHAPTER I.

We gather up with pious care,
  What happy saints have left behind,
Their witness in our memory bear,
  Their sayings on our faithful mind.
Their works which trac'd them to the skies,
  For patterns to ourselves we take,
And dearly love, and highly prize
  The mantle for the wearer's sake.

C. WESLEY.

FOURSCORE years passed over the head of Mrs. Driffield before she was called to the reward promised to the righteous. Many instructive lessons may be learned from the lengthened and varied experience of so protracted a life; which, while brightened by much of God's favour, was marked also by a large share of those cares, labours, and sorrows, to which all are more or less subject. By the faithful record which has been preserved of her earnest and consistent piety, she,

though dead, still speaks to those who are going down to the vale of years, without having secured, like her, a blessed immortality on the other side of death. From the same record, those who have but recently set out upon the christian path may be at once instructed and encouraged. If, like the subject of these pages, they early yield their hearts to the full influence of religion they will obtain from it, as she did, all the help which their age and circumstances may require. If they early give themselves to the church of Christ they will become examples to others, and their usefulness and influence will grow and advance with their character and years. Planted thus in the house of the Lord, they too will flourish in the courts of our God, and bring forth fruit in old age.

The distinguishing characteristic of Mrs. Driffield was her supreme regard for vital religion. Her habits and feelings were all determined with respect to this object, and from the time that she was awakened by the Holy Spirit's influence to see its power and value, it became with her a matter of daily duty, to endeavour to lead others to the heavenly source from whence her own spiritual happiness was derived. Religion in the heart was the secret spring of her actions, and guided her in those humble but useful walks of active benevolence in which she was constantly treading; and her deep love for God made her anxiously and unceasingly concerned for his glory. She had been led to the knowledge of Christ by his Word, by his Spirit, and by his holy example; and through walking in this light she did not fall into sin, or miss her way to heaven. And as we follow this Christian of Fourscore through passages in her diary, through incidents in her life, and witness at last her triumph over death, we shall be able distinctly and in-

structively to trace the influence of the powerful and sanctifying grace of Christ on a human character.

The subject of this memoir was the daughter of Thomas Crawford, Esq., of Easingwold in the North Riding of Yorkshire. She was born on the 16th of July, 1769. Her native town is hallowed, in the memory of many admirers of great and good men, from its association with the closing scene of the useful life of the noble and eloquent Dr. Robert Newton. Easingwold was the chosen place of his retirement after the toils of a long and honoured ministry. Here he awaited the call of his master to the reward of the righteous, and to the everlasting rest of heaven. In the picturesque churchyard of this rural town his body sleeps till the Archangel's trump shall wake the dead.

The parents of Miss Crawford were attached to the Church of England, and in her childhood and early youth she accompanied them to the parish church of Easingwold. She often spoke of the powerful manner in which the Holy Spirit wrought on her mind in those youthful days. She knew little of the Word of God, and ardently desired that some one would teach her its meaning. When about sixteen years of age, the conversation and prayers of a pious young friend, who had obtained religion among the Methodists, deeply impressed her: from that time she began seriously and earnestly to think about salvation.

The spiritual darkness which prevailed in the Established Church during the last century is well known; and those who were inclined to a godly and religious life had often to suffer bitter persecution from many of the clergy and people of this land. The followers of Wesley stood almost alone, in many