

**NEW SERIES, NO. 10. THE ANNUAL
MONITOR FOR 1852. OR OBITUARY
OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY
OF FRIENDS IN GREAT BRITAIN AND
IRELAND, OF THE YEAR 1851**

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In Great Britain and Ireland,

FOR THE YEAR 1851.

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P R E F A C E .

REPEATEDLY AS WE have had in the conducting of this little work to collect and present to our readers the obituary of the past year,—the simple record of the names and ages of our departed friends even when unattended by any *note or comment*, has not ceased to be both interesting and affecting to us. There is an eloquence in these brief notices of mortality when collected together, which does really come home to our feelings. They speak a truth surely acknowledged by us, but of which, nevertheless, we need to be continually reminded, that “one generation passeth away, and another cometh,” and that our “life is but as a vapour” on the earth. Yet brief, uncertain, and “but as a shadow” as our life is, how all-important is the little space of time which it embraces, and which is allotted to us for the greatest of all works. It is the stage in which we travel

to everlasting blessedness or to eternal woe. Let us not slumber, but "work while it is day—the night cometh in which no man can work." What a call to seriousness and earnestness is presented to us in these words; and if we might here for a moment open our hearts to our readers, we would utter this call to seriousness and earnestness, with all the depth and emphasis of which we are capable. It is always our duty to be serious, but if we mistake not the aspect of the present times—the state of our little community—the circumstances of our beloved country—and indeed we might say, of the civilized world, call upon us with especial force to "work while it is day"—to be watching unto prayer, with our loins girded, ready for any portion of service either in action or suffering, which may be allotted to us. Oh! that we felt more of the constraining love of Christ, "because we thus judge, that if One died for all, then were all dead: and that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them and rose again." 2 Cor. v. 14, 15. Surely the living conviction that we were *all dead* in trespasses and sins, and that Christ had died for us all, would quicken us

both to love and earnestness in the daily walk of faith, and in that fidelity into which true faith invariably leads. How many of us live as if these truths had never been brought to our ears, or offered to our hearts! Yet, it is certain, that if we die in the rejection or non-appreciation of them, as the great influential principles of our conduct in life, Christ, as regards us, may be said to have lived and died in vain, and whither he has gone, we shall never come. Our fathers in religious profession were, as we well know, men of deep seriousness and earnestness in relation to these truths. They knew and often spoke of the terrors of the Lord for sin, and of those mercies which are the privilege of the true believers in Christ. Living in the world, they lived out of its spirit, its maxims, and its fashions, and loving Christ with their hearts, they followed Him in the path of suffering which was allotted to them; having a lively hope through grace, that as they suffered so they should also reign with Him.

In this state of mind, we believe was to be found the secret of their success in winning souls to Christ. May we be animated by their example to go and do likewise. For we are persuaded that in no other state can we be enabled to labour effect-

ually for the restoration of our waste places, and for the rebuilding of our dilapidated walls.

Amongst the accounts which have been sent to us the present year, are some which have especially interested us. They speak of the immediate work of Divine grace on the soul, which often in very early life is found to be drawing it to the love and fear of God, and the hatred of evil; instructively exemplifying that inward warfare which is raised and maintained between the flesh and the spirit—between Christ and Satan.

In our first number of the *New Series* (1843) we stated the principles on which we proposed to conduct the work, and we have endeavoured in the successive numbers to keep these principles steadily in view—yet in the completion of our labours we deeply feel their manifold imperfections, and we do sincerely desire and hope, that the succeeding decade of this little periodical, may be more worthy of its character, humble as that is, than the preceding one has been.

It is not without some feelings of pain that we take our leave of those friends who have so kindly from year to year supplied the chief matter of our publication, and we desire also to acknowledge

the kind condescension of our friends in general, who have corresponded with us respecting the notices of their departed friends, thus making a delicate and somewhat difficult part of our duty much more easy than we had anticipated.

We have for some years past, proposed to supply an index to the numbers of the New Series of the Annual Monitor already published, and we now ask our readers acceptance of it for the first nine numbers; it has been divided into three parts, under the idea that three numbers would when bound form a volume, and we hope that in future an index will be supplied once in three years.

We have now only to bid our dear friends *farewell*—not in a formal or common-place manner, but sincerely desiring that the blessing of the Lord which maketh rich, and to which no sorrow is added, may abundantly rest upon them.