

**NEW SERIES, NO. 12. THE ANNUAL
MONITOR FOR 1854, OR, OBITUARY
OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY
OF FRIENDS IN GREAT BRITAIN AND
IRELAND, FOR THE YEAR 1853**

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MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

In Great Britain and Ireland,

FOR THE YEAR 1853.

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PREFACE

THROUGH the kind co-operation and efficient aid of our friends and correspondents in different parts, in furnishing materials for the work, we are enabled to present to the Readers of the ANNUAL MONITOR another number of this little periodical. The contributions for the Memorials in the Obituary have again been large, and however imperfectly the editorial duties may have been performed, the continued interest thus manifested by Friends, demands our grateful acknowledgment; more especially, when the humble hope is entertained, that, even in these pages, many of whom some account is preserved, or whose names only are simply recorded, "being dead, yet speak" to our profit, and call to us to be "also ready," to serve, to suffer, or to be "glorified together with Christ."

It will be seen, that during the last *monitorial* year, the number of deaths recorded is considerably smaller than last year. With one exception, it is the lowest number, since the commencement of the "New Series" of the Annual Monitor, and more than forty-six less than the average of the last eleven years. There is perhaps nothing very remarkable or unnatural in considerable variations

of this kind, in a succession of years; but, when it is recollected, that during the year just passed, the nation has not been wholly exempt from the visitation of pestilential disease, and other causes of peculiar anxiety, the circumstance alluded to, may not unprofitably awaken serious thoughtfulness, and deepen our gratitude to the Great Preserver of men, "in whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind."

Whilst "the memory of the just is blessed," and it is said that "the righteous shall be had in everlasting remembrance," yet it is not to raise monuments for the dead, but to record that which may be instructive and edifying to the living, that the Annual Monitor is open to the brief memorials of deceased Friends, which, from year to year, appear in its pages. Though especially devoted to obituary notices of the Members of our Society in Great Britain and Ireland, it is not inconsistent with its object occasionally to admit documents of this kind relating to Friends of other portions of the Body; and such is the nearness of the connexion between Friends of this country and our Brethren of the different Yearly Meetings on the American Continent, that we readily avail ourselves of the opportunity afforded us, by the kindness of beloved friends of that land, to insert the two biographical sketches which will be found at the end of this little volume. The subject of the first will be fresh in the recollection

tion of many Friends; and the apostolic labours of Nathan Hunt will still live in the hearts of those who shared in his baptizing Gospel Ministry, and were instructed by his bright example.

Precious is that Christian fellowship which unites the humble followers of the Lamb, everywhere, and is a practical comment upon the words of our blessed Saviour to his disciples,—“One is your Master, even Christ, and all ye are brethren.” Whatever has even the remotest tendency to strengthen this bond of Christian Brotherhood, to increase the feeling of interest in each other's preservation and welfare, and to render us more susceptible of that fellowship which is with “the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ,” and which we are permitted, under the influence and guidance of the Holy Spirit, to enjoy one with another in Him, cannot fail to be favourable to our individual “growth in the Truth,” and conducive to the spiritual health and prosperity of the Church of Christ, in all parts of the world.

It has been well observed, that “there is not a nobler sight in the world, than an aged and experienced Christian, who, having been sifted in the sieve of temptation, stands forth as a confirmer of the assaulted—testifying, from his own trials, the reality of religion; and meeting, by his warnings and directions, the cases of all who may be tempted to doubt it.” With equal beauty and truth, it has also been said, that “honourable age is not

[exclusively] that which stands in length of time, nor that is measured by number of years; but wisdom is the grey hair unto men, and an unspotted life is old age." Even the records of the Annual Monitor, now continued for many years, furnish us with some interesting and instructive facts illustrative of these statements,—and, in a healthy state of the Church, whilst "one generation passeth away, and another riseth up quickly," we have good reason to believe that there will be a succession of faithful servants of Christ. Though "all have not the same office," for every office appropriate provision will be made, and all the healthy functions of the body of which Christ is the Head, will be performed to His honour: there will be a progressive developement of all those points which belong to the character of his humble and believing followers, from the "little children," who have their "sins forgiven them for His name's sake," and the "young men, who are strong, who have the word of God abiding in them, and have overcome the wicked one," to the "Fathers, who have known Him that was from the beginning;" "till we all come, in the unity of the faith, and the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."

When, year after year, we see the ranks of the Fathers thinning fast; when with deep and tender interest we view the remaining veterans amongst us,

whose warfare is nearly ended, whose victory is almost won, and look upon the fields, and see them still white unto harvest, can we avoid looking round for the reapers? Can we forget the words of our blessed Redeemer, "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He would send forth labourers into his harvest?" Can we seriously think of our own appropriate department in the work, and not turn with deep interest and warm solicitude, to our beloved youth,—and not feel the force of the injunction,—"Thou shalt not delay to offer the first of thy ripe fruit"? O for faithfulness to the call of the Lord;—to "the high calling of God in Christ Jesus"!