

all their minute rationalities, are not suited to it at all, and therefore take no hold on the popular mind ; natural religions, with all their immense popularity, are not suited to improve it. It is Christianity alone which unites the popularity of the one class with the rationality, and more than the purity, of the other ; that gives to the Deity, as man, his strong hold on the human affections, and restores to him, in his abstract character as the father of all, the homage of the understanding.

The change which must come to all was fast coming on William Forsyth. There was a gradual sinking of his powers, bodily and intellectual ; a thorough prostration of strength and energy ; and yet, amid the general wreck of the man, the affections remained entire and unbroken ; and the idea that the present scene is to be succeeded by another was continually present with him. Weeks passed in which he could no longer quit his bed. On the day he died, however, he expressed a wish to be brought to a chair which stood fronting a window, and the wish was complied with. The window commands a full view of the main street of the place ; but though his face was turned in that direction, his attendants could not suppose that he took note any longer of the objects before him ; the eyes were open, but the sense seemed shut. The case, however, was otherwise. A poor old woman passed by, and the dying man recognized her at once. " Ah, yonder," he said, addressing one of his daughters who stood by him, " is poor old Widow Watson, whom I have not seen now for many weeks. Take a shilling for her out of my purse, and tell her it is the last she will ever get from me." And so it was ; and such was the closing act of a long and singularly useful life ; for his death, unaccompanied apparently by aught of suffering, took place in the course of the