

battles to be fought in the future ; the names of the brave and the good among the ancestors become watchwords of tremendous efficacy to the descendants ; the children " honour their fathers," and " their days, therefore, shall be long in the land."

But what has all this to do with criticism ? A great deal. As you enter the second exhibition-room, turn just two steps to the left, and examine the large picture before you. It is one of the masterpieces of Harvey,—“ The Covenanters' Communion ;” and very rarely has the same extent of canvas borne the impress of an equal amount of thought or feeling. The Covenanters themselves are before us, and we return to the times of which, according to Wordsworth, the “ echo rings through Scotland till this hour.” Not in vain did these devoted people assemble to worship God among the hills ; not in vain did these venerable men, these delicate women, and tender maidens, unhesitatingly lay down their lives for the cause of Christ and his Church. Their solitary graves form no small portion of the strength and riches of the country. They retain a vivifying power, like the grave of Elisha, into which when the dead man was thrown he straightway revived. Those opponents of the Church who assert, in the present struggle, that the cherished memory of our martyrs serves only to foster a spirit of fanatical pride among the people, are as opposed to right reason as devoid of true feeling. It fosters a truly conservative spirit, which it is well and wise to cherish ; and one of the eminently wholesome effects of the present struggle is the reciprocity of feeling, if we may so express ourselves, which it awakens between the past and the present. The determination of the present revives the memory of the past, and the memory of the past gives tenfold force and effect to the determination of the present. Martyrs never die in vain. We doubt not there is a time coming when even the memory of the noble