

with any other man living,) so far as religious experiences were concerned: and I had also received several very valuable letters from him, during the time of our absence from each other, which contained most genuine and edifying traces of his christian character. But I hoped farther to learn many valuable particulars, from the papers of his own closet; and from his letters to other friends, as well as from what they more circumstantially knew concerning him: I therefore determined to delay the execution of my promise, till I could enjoy these advantages for performing it in the most satisfactory manner; nor have I, on the whole, reason to regret that determination.

2. I shall not trouble my reader with all the causes, which concurred to retard these expected assistances for almost a year: the chief of them were, the tedious languishing illness of his afflicted lady, through whose hands it was proper the papers should pass; together with the confusion into which the rebels had thrown them, when they ransacked his seat at Bancton, where most of them were deposited. But having now received such of them, as have escaped their rapacious hands, and could conveniently be collected and transmitted, I set myself with the greatest pleasure to perform, what I esteem not merely a tribute of gratitude to the

memory of my invaluable friend, (though never was the memory of any mortal man more precious and sacred to me;) but out of duty to God and to my fellow creatures: for I have a most cheerful hope, that the narrative I am now to write, will, under the divine blessing, be a means of spreading, what of all things in the world every benevolent heart will most desire to spread, a warm and lively sense of religion.

3. My own heart has been so much edified and animated, by what I have read in the memoirs of persons who have been eminent for wisdom and piety, that I cannot but wish the treasure may be more and more increased; and I would hope, the world may gather the like valuable fruits from the life I am now attempting; not only as it will contain very singular circumstances, which may excite a general curiosity, but as it comes attended with some other particular advantages.

4. The reader is here to survey a character of such eminent and various goodness as might demand veneration, and inspire him with a desire to imitate it too, had it appeared in the obscurest rank: but it will surely command some peculiar regard when viewed in so elevated and important a station; especially as it shone, not in ecclesiastical, but military life, where the temptations are so many, and the prevalency of

the contrary character so great, that it may seem no inconsiderable praise and felicity to be free from dissolute vice, and to retain what in other professions might be esteemed only a mediocrity of virtue. It may surely with the highest justice be expected, that the title and bravery of Colonel Gardiner will invite many of our officers and soldiers, to whom his name has long been honourable and dear, to peruse this account of him with some peculiar attention; in consequence of which, it may be a means of increasing the number, and brightening the character of those who are already adorning their office, their country, and their religion, of reclaiming those, who will see rather what they ought to be, than what they are. On the whole, to the gentlemen of the sword I would particularly offer these memoirs, as theirs by so distinguished a title: yet I am firmly persuaded there are none, whose office is so sacred, or whose proficiency in the religious life is so advanced, but they may find something to demand their thankfulness and to awaken their emulation.

5. Colonel James Gardiner, of whom we write, was the son of Captain Patrick Gardiner, of the family of Torwood-Head, by Mrs. Mary Hodge, of the family of Glandsmuir. The Captain, who was master of a handsome estate, served many years in the

army of King William and Queen Anne, and died abroad with the British forces in Germany, quickly after the battle of Hochstet, through the fatigues he underwent in the duties of that celebrated campaign. He had a company in the regiment of foot, once commanded by Colonel Hodge, his valiant brother-in-law, who was slain at the head of that regiment, (my memorial from Scotland says,) at the battle of Steenkirk, which was fought in the year 1692.

6. Mrs. Gardiner, our Colonel's mother was a lady of a very valuable character; but it pleased God to exercise her with very uncommon trials; for she not only lost her husband and brother in the service of their country, as before related, but also her eldest son, Mr. Robert Gardiner, on the day which completed the 16th year of his age, at the siege of Namur in 1695. But there are great reasons to believe, God blessed these various and heavy afflictions, as the means of forming her to that eminent degree of piety, which will render her memory honourable as long as it continues.

7. Her second son, the worthy person of whom I am now to give a more particular account, was born at Carriden in Linlithgowshire, on the 10th of January, A. D. 1687—8; the memorable year of that glorious revolution which he justly esteemed among the happiest of all events. So that

when he was slain in defence of those liberties, which God then by so great a providence rescued from utter destruction, i. e. on Sep. 21st, 1745, he was aged 57 years, 8 months, and 11 days.

8. The annual return of his birth-day was observed by him, in the latter and better years of his life, in a manner very different from what is commonly practised; for, instead of making it a day of festivity, I am told, he rather distinguished it as a season of more than ordinary humiliation before God; both in commemoration of those mercies which he received in the first opening of life, and under an affectionate sense, as well as of his long alienation from the great author and support of his being, as of the many imperfections which he lamented, in the best of his days and services.

9. I have not met with many things remarkable, concerning the earliest years of his life only that his mother took care to instruct him with great tenderness and affection, in the principles of true christianity. He was also trained up in human literature at the school at Linlithgow, where he made a very considerable progress in the languages. I remember to have heard him quote some passages of the Latin Classics very pertinently; though his employment in life, and the various turns which his mind took under different impulses in succeeding years,

prevented him from cultivating such studies.

10. The good effects of his Mother's prudent and exemplary care, were not so conspicuous as she wished and hoped, in the younger part of her son's life; yet there is great reason to believe, they were not entirely lost. As they were probably the occasion of many convictions, which in his younger years were over-borne; so I doubt not, that when religious impressions took that strong hold of his heart, which they afterwards did, that stock of knowledge which had been so early laid up in his mind, was found of considerable service. And I have heard him make the observation, as an encouragement to parents, and other pious friends, to do their duty, and to hope for those good consequences of it which may not immediately appear.

11. Could his mother, or a very religious aunt, (of whose good instructions and exhortations I have often heard him speak with pleasure,) have prevailed, he would not have thought of a military life; from which it is no wonder, these ladies endeavoured to dissuade him, considering the mournful experience they had of the dangers attending it, and the dear relatives they had lost already by it. But it suited his taste; and the ardour of his spirit, animated by the persuasions of a friend who greatly urged it