

The gates of brass before him burst,
The iron fetters yield.

4 He comes from thickest films of vice
To clear the mental ray,
And on the eye-balls of the blind,
To pour celestial day.*

5 He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure;
And with the treasures of his grace
T' enrich the humble poor.

6 His silver trumpets publish loud
The jub'lee of the Lord;
Our debts are all remitted now,
Our heritage restor'd.

7 Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim;
And heaven's eternal arches ring,
With thy beloved name.

* This stanza is mostly borrowed from Mr. Pope.

142. There is one hymn more I shall beg leave to add, plain as it is, which Colonel Gardiner has been heard to mention with particular regard, as expressing the inmost sentiments of his soul; and they were undoubtedly so in the last rational moments of his expiring life. It is called, Christ precious to the believer; and was composed to be sung after a sermon on 1 Peter ii. 7.

1 Jesus! I love thy charming name,
'Tis music to my ear:
Fain would I sound it out so loud,
That earth and heaven should hear.

2 Yes, thou art precious to my soul,
My transport and my trust;
Jewels to thee are gaudy toys,
And gold is sordid dust.

3 All my capacious powers can wish,
In thee most richly meet:
Nor to my eye is life so dear,
Nor friendship half so sweet.

4 Thy grace still dwells upon my heart,
And sheds its fragrance there:
The noblest balm of all its wounds,
The cordial of its care.

5 I'll speak the honours of thy name
With my last lab'ring breath;
Then speechless clasp thee in my arms,
The antidote of death.

143. Those who were intimate with Colonel Gardiner must have observed how readily he was to give a devotional turn to any subject that occurred. And in particular the spiritual and heavenly disposition of his soul discovered itself in the reflections and improvements which he made, when reading history; in which he took a great deal of pleasure, as persons remarkable for their knowledge of mankind, and observa-

tion of providence, generally do. There is an instance of this before me, which, tho' too natural to be at all surprising, will doubtless be pleasing to the devout mind. He had just been reading in Rollin's extract from Xenophon, the answer which the lady of Tigranes made, when all the company were extolling Cyrus and expressing the admiration with which his appearance and behaviour struck them; the question being asked her, what she thought of him? she answered, I don't know, I did not observe him. On what then, said one of the company, did you fix your attention? On him, replied she, (referring to the generous speech which her husband had just made,) who said he would give a thousand lives to ransom my liberty. "Oh, (cried the Colonel, when reading it,) how ought we to fix our eyes and hearts on Him, who not in offer, but in reality, gave his own precious life to ransom us from the most dreadful slavery, and from eternal destruction!" But this is only one instance among a thousand. His heart was habitually set upon divine things, and he had such a permanent and overflowing sense of the love of Christ, that he could not forbear connecting such reflections with a multitude of more distant occasions occurring in daily life, where less advanced Christians would not have thought of them: and thus like our great master, he

made every little incident a source of devotion, and an instrument of holy zeal.

144. Enfeebled as his constitution was, he was still intent on improving his time to some valuable purposes; and when his friends expostulated with him, that he gave his body so little rest, he used to answer, "It will rest long enough in the grave."

145. The July before his death, he was persuaded to take a journey to Scarborough for the recovery of his health; from which he was at least encouraged to expect some little revival. After this he had thoughts of going to London, and designed to have spent part of September at Northampton. The expectation of this was mutually agreeable: but providence thought fit to disconcert the scheme. His love for his friends in these parts occasioned him to express some regret on his being commanded back; and I am pretty confident, from the manner in which he expressed himself in one of his last letters to me, that he had some more important reasons for wishing an opportunity of making a London journey just at that crisis; which as the reader will remember was before the rebellion broke out; but as providence determined it otherwise, he acquiesced; and I am well-satisfied, that could he have distinctly foreseen the approaching event, so far as it concerned his own person, he would have esteemed it the happi-

est summons he ever received. While he was at Scarborough, I find by a letter dated from thence, July 26th 1745, that he had been informed of the gaiety which so unseasonably prevailed at Edinburgh, where great multitudes were then spending their time in balls, assemblies, and other gay amusements, little mindful of the rod of God which was then hanging over them; on which occasion he hath this expression; "I am greatly surprised that the people of Edinburgh should be employed in such foolish diversions when our situation is at present more melancholy than ever I saw it in my life. But there is one thing which I am very sure of, that comforts me, viz. that it shall go well with the righteous, come what will."

146. Quickly after his return home, the flame burst out and his regiment was ordered to Sterling. It was in the castle there that his lady and eldest daughter enjoyed the last happy hours of his company, and I think it was about eight or ten days before his death that he parted from them there. A remarkable circumstance attended that parting, which hath been touched upon by surviving friends in more than one of their letters to me. His Lady was so affected when she took her last leave of him that she could not forbear bursting out into a flood of tears, with other marks of unusual emotion. And when he asked her the

reason, she urged the apprehension she had of losing such an invaluable friend amidst the dangers to which he was then called out, as a very sufficient apology. Upon which she took particular notice; that whereas he had generally comforted her on such occasions, by pleading with her that remarkable hand of providence which had so frequently in former instances been exerted for his preservation, and that in the greatest extremity, he said nothing of it now, but only replied, in his sententious manner, 'We have an eternity to spend together.'

147. That heroic contempt of death, which had often discovered itself in the midst of former dangers, was manifested now in his discourse with several of his most intimate friends. I have reserved for this place one genuine expression of it many years before, which I thought might be mentioned with some advantage here. About July 1725, he had been sent to some place, not far from Hamilton, to quell a mutiny among some of our troops. I know not the particular occasion; but I remember to have heard him mention it as so fierce a one, that he scarce ever apprehended himself in a more hazardous circumstance. Yet he quelled it by his presence alone, and the expostulations he used, evidently putting his life into his hand to do it. The particulars of the story struck me much; but I do not

exactly remember them, as to venture to relate them here. I only observe that in a letter now before me, dated July 16th of that year, and which evidently refers to this event, he writes thus; 'I have been very busy, hurried about from place to place; but, blessed be God, all is over without bloodshed. And pray let me ask, what made you shew so much concern for me in your last? Were you afraid I should get to heaven before you? Or can any evil befall those who are followers of that which is good?'

148. And as these were his sentiments in the vigour of his days, so neither did declining years and the infirmities of a broken constitution on the one hand, nor any desires of enjoying the honours and profits of so high a station, or (what was much more to him) the converse of the most affectionate of wives, and so many amiable children and friends, on the other, enervate his spirits in the least; but as he had in former years often expressed it to me and several others, as his desire, 'That if it were the will of God, he might have some honourable call to sacrifice his life in defence of religion and the liberties of his country;' so when it appeared to him most probable that he might be called to it immediately, he met the summons with the greatest readiness. This appears in part from a letter which he wrote to

the Reverend Mr. Adams of Falkirk, just as he was on marching from Stirling, which was only eight days before his death: 'The rebels,' says he, 'are advancing to cross the Frith; but I trust in the Almighty God, who doth whatsoever he pleases in the armies of heaven, and with the inhabitants of the earth.' And the same gentleman tells me, that a few days after the date of this, he marched through Falkirk with his regiment; and though he was then in so languishing a state, that he needed his assistance as a secretary to write for some reinforcements, which might put it in his power to make a stand, (as he was very desirous to have done,) he expressed a most genuine and noble contempt of life, when to be exposed in the defence of a worthy cause.

149. These sentiments wrought in him to the last in the most effectual manner: and he seemed for a while to have infused them into the regiment which he commanded: For they expressed such a spirit in their marching from Stirling, that I am assured the Colonel was obliged to exert all his authority to prevent their making incursions on the rebel army, which then lay very near them; and had it been thought proper to send him the reinforcements he requested, none can say what the consequence might have been; but he was ordered to march as fast as possible, to meet Sir John Cope's

forces at Dunbar, which he did: and that hasty retreat in concurrence with the news they soon after received of the surrender of Edinburgh to the rebels, (either by the treachery or weakness of a few, in opposition to the judgment of by far the greater and better part of the inhabitants,) struck a panic into both the regiments of dragoons, which became visible in some very apparent and remarkable circumstances in their behaviour. This affected Colonel Gardiner so much that on the Thursday before the fatal action at Preston-Pans, he intimated to an officer of considerable rank and note, that he expected the event would be, as in fact it was. In this view, there is all imaginable reason to believe he had formed his resolution as to his own personal conduct, which was, 'that he would not, in case of the flight of those under his command, retreat with them;' by which as it seemed, he was reasonably apprehensive, he might have stained the honour of his former services, and have given occasion for the enemy to have spoken reproachfully. He much rather chose, if Providence gave him the call, to leave in his death an example of fidelity and bravery, which might very probably be, (as in fact it seems indeed to have been,) of much greater service, than in the days of remaining life he could expect to render it. I conclude these to have been his views, not only from

what was known of his general character and temper, but likewise from some intimations which he gave to a very worthy person from Edinburgh, who visited him the day before the action; to whom he said, 'I cannot influence the conduct of others as I could wish, but I have one life to sacrifice to my country's safety, and that shall not be spared;' or words to that effect.

150. There have been such a multitude of inconsistent reports of the circumstances of Colonel Gardiner's death, that there was reason almost to despair of my being able to give the reader any particular satisfaction concerning so interesting a scene: but by a happy accident I have very lately had an opportunity of being exactly informed of the whole, by that brave man Mr. John Forster, his faithful servant, (and worthy of the honor of serving such a master) whom I had seen with him at my house some years before. He attended him in his last hours, and gave me the narration at large; which he would be ready, if it were requisite, to attest upon oath. From his mouth I wrote it down with the utmost exactness, and could easily believe, from the genuine and affectionate manner in which he related the particulars, that, according to his own expression, 'his eye and his heart were always upon his honored Master during the whole time.'

151. On Friday September the 20th, (the day before the battle which transmitted him to his immortal crown,) when the whole army was drawn up about noon, the Colonel rode through all the ranks of his own regiment, addressing them at once in the most respectful and animating manner, both as Soldiers and Christians, to engage them to exert themselves courageously in the service of their country, and to neglect nothing that might have a tendency to prepare them for whatsoever event might happen. They seemed much affected with the address, and expressed a very ardent desire of attacking the enemy immediately: A desire, in which he and another very gallant officer of distinguished rank, dignity, and character, both for bravery and conduct, would gladly have gratified them, if it had been in the power of either. He earnestly pressed it on the commanding officer, both as the soldiers were then in better spirits than it could be supposed they would be after passing the night under arms; and also as the circumstance of making an attack would be some encouragement to them, and probably some terror to the enemy, who would have had the disadvantage of standing on the defence: a disadvantage, with which those wild barbarians (for such most of them were) perhaps would have been more struck than better disciplined troops; especially when they

fought against the laws of their country too. He also apprehended, that by marching to meet them, some advantage might have been secured with regard to the ground; with which it is natural to imagine he must have been perfectly acquainted, as it lay just at his own door, and he had rode over it so many hundred times. When mentioning these things, I do not pretend to be capable of judging how far this advice was on the whole right. A variety of circumstances, to me unknown, might make it otherwise. It is certain, however, that it was brave. But it was over-ruled in this respect, as it also was in the disposition of the cannon, which he would have planted in the centre of our army, rather than just before his regiment, which was in the right wing; where he was apprehensive that the horses, which had not been in an engagement before, might be thrown into some disorder by the discharge so very near them. He urged this the more, as he thought the attack of the rebels might probably be made in the centre of the foot, where he knew there were some brave men, on whose standing he thought under God the success of the day depended. When he found that he could not carry either of these points, nor some others, which out of regard to the common safety he insisted upon with some unusual earnestness, he dropped some intimations of the consequence which