

CLOSE OF MRS. ELLEN ANGIER'S LIFE.

MRS. E. ANGIER, first wife of the Rev. John Angier, was born at Wigan, and daughter of Mr. Winstanley. * At the early age of eight years, she commenced her religious course, but she never appears to have possessed an assurance, or to have enjoyed a sense of divine favour. Her natural constitution seems to have had a propensity to depression of spirits, and through the whole of life this was her affliction. Two years and more before her death, God exercised her with great weakness of body; so that she was sometimes unable to walk, or lie down in bed, and was in excessive pain.

March 23, 1641, God gave her more clearness and comfort than she usually had; but her disconsolateness returned. At one time she said, "She would fain speak to the children, but could not, she was so straitened in her breast." Her husband asked her if he should send for their son John? She said, "No;" but bade him do what he thought best, he being at school at Manchester. She spoke to her daughter, and bade her "take God for her parent, as she knew not how soon father and mother might be gone." Speaking of John, she said, "That poor child, the Lord redeem his soul and keep him from base company. It may be, my poor words may sometime impress him, and my poor desires be realized." "She then," says Mr. Angier, "spake to me, desiring that I would take care to train up the children in God's fear." She said to her friends that were with her "Labour to be prepared to go through such difficulties. You may go on long in profession, and still meet with hard things when you think the worst is past. This I would say to old and young, be more plain and honest one with another."

"At night I went not to bed," continues Mr. A. "till after twelve o'clock, being solicitous for my wife, that God would further manifest himself unto her. Before one o'clock they called me up, she being very ill. She then said, 'Lord, into thy hands I commit my spirit, for thou hast redeemed me. Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly. Make no tarrying. He doth not yet come. Will he not make haste?' I answered, 'yes, in his own time.' Again she prayed that the Lord would come, and he did not long delay. She desired to be put into another bed,

* See Page 524.

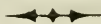
where, after a short but hard struggle with death, she slept calmly away, between three and four o'clock in the morning, Dec. 14, 1642.

“ God had taken off her heart from minding the children or any thing else, and had much weaned my heart. Notwithstanding her long weakness, her death was somewhat severe, and she was sensible to the last, though she had much feared the loss of her senses. Dec. 15, about two o'clock in the afternoon, the body of my wife was committed to the grave. Mr. Horrocks preached on Rom. vi. 23, ‘ The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.’ Dec. 18, God sent Mr. Hollingworth to help me, who preached on Job xxxiv. 29, ‘ When he giveth quietness, who then can make trouble ?’ The Lord graciously assisted him. He said, ‘ One good look from God would make things well with a kingdom or individual.’ ”

A
BIOGRAPHICAL ACCOUNT
OF
MRS. ELIZABETH HEYWOOD,

First Wife of the Rev. O. Heywood ;

EXTRACTED FROM HIS MANUSCRIPTS.



SHE was the excellent daughter of an eminent minister, the Rev. J. Angier. She was born, June 24, 1634, at Denton in Lancashire, the place where her distinguished father was minister many years ; and was baptized, June 29, by Mr. Henry Root, then preacher at Gorton, a neighbouring chapel. She being brought up at home, partook of her parents' excellent dispositions. She was naturally very forward in learning any thing, so that she could read some of the hardest chapters in the bible when but four years of age. At six years of age, she was able to write down passages of sermons she heard, in which, by continual use, in process of time she arrived at great perfection, so that she could repeat a sermon very methodically and distinctly. This evidenced not only her natural genius, but that “ by reason of use, she had her senses exercised to discern both good and evil.” As for her acquaintance with scripture, I may say of her as was said of Timothy : “ That from a child she had