

### January 30.

"I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God: and the books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life."—Rev. xx. 12.

"There shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie; but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life."—Rev. xxi. 27.

"Rejoice, because your names are written in heaven." —Luke x. 20.

"Clement also, and other my fellow-labourers, whose names are in the book of life."—Phil. iv. 3.

I find repeated mention, in God's Word, of the book of life. It is a solemn thought, *"Is my name written there?"* No question can be of such importance to me ! How happy the chosen seventy must have been, when their Lord's own voice told them that they were to rejoice, because their "names were written in heaven!" How happy Clement must have been, and those other fellow-labourers, when the inspired apostle had said that their "names were in the book of life!" But it was not to produce a careless security that they were assured of this; they must have felt more than ever humbled by a sense of God's undeserved mercy, and more than ever earnest in seeking grace to persevere, and holiness to live as became those whose names were written in heaven. And if I have thus felt His mercy and sought His grace, though no voice from heaven can now assure me that my name is written there, I may yet have a good hope through grace, for His own word remains as firm as in the day when He himself uttered it—"Him that cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out."

"Write but my name upon the roll  
Of Thy redeem'd above;  
Then heart, and mind, and strength, and soul,  
I'll love Thee for Thy love!"

### January 31.

"He weakened my strength in the way.'—Ps. cii. 23.

"This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby."—John xi. 4.

When God weakens our strength in the way, and sends us sore sickness, we are peculiarly apt to be tempted to question His love and wisdom. We are ready to say, Why am I thus laid aside from all usefulness in the world? Or if the trial is sent, not to ourselves, but to some dear Christian friend, we feel often still more perplexed by God's dealings, and ask, Is it not a very dark and mysterious Providence that one so useful, so full of benevolent schemes, so able to do God's work in a world where workers are so needed, should be thus prostrated with pain, and his strength thus "weakened in the way?" Perhaps the sisters and friends of Lazarus thought thus. Little could they deem that, by his sickness, God was to be glorified more than if he had lived in perfect health to the age of Methuselah! And though God does not now glorify Himself by raising men from the dead, like Lazarus, He is still calling on us to have faith in Him, and to believe that sickness is not sent in vain, but for the glory of God, *when borne with Christian patience*. Surely His grace was not less manifested, and His name was not less glorified by the *patience* of Job, than by the *cure* of Hezekiah!