

causes of sorrow at such a time—tho' even a brief parting would have been painful to their feelings—their sorrow on this occasion was heightened to the greatest pitch of intensity by the sad consciousness, that they saw his face, and heard his words, and pressed his hands for the *last time*. "They sorrowed most of all for the words which he spake, that they should see his face no more. And they accompanied him unto the ship."

Surely among the histories of the mere children of this world, there never can be found a scene so sublimely affecting, so full of all that is noble and beautiful and pure, as this.

But it is a scene which has often been repeated in the history of the Church of Christ since the parting of Paul from Ephesus. All Christ's people are "made to drink into one spirit." They are all united to "one Lord," and are partakers of one faith—and "it is the same God who is above all and through all and in them all." And His Spirit thus leads, in all ages, and sections of His Church, to the same results—the same Christian affection between Pastor and people—the same high and holy consolations, to cheer them both, when their earthly connexion is dissolved—the same hopes of meeting where connexions are dissolved no more. And now Brethren I have been led to select this portion of Scripture, as introductory to a few remarks on that mournful event which is sufficiently declared by the sable garments which you see around you to day in this house of God. Your Bishop, the highest Minister over that house, to whom you and I have been accustomed to look as our Spiritual Father and Overseer, is no more ! He has finished his course, "and the ministry which he had received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God." And now, behold, all ye, among whom he has gone preaching the kingdom of God, for so many years, shall see his face no more. He who has so often passed up and down our coasts and through the length and breadth of our land, ordaining our Ministers, consecrating our Churches, confirming our youth, comforting those that mourn, animating our zeal, encouraging us in our difficulties, counselling us in our doubts, rejoicing in our prosperity, sympathising in our adversity, has passed for ever away from this lower scene of trial !

He "rests from his labours," and we trust we may also add "his works do follow him." It is most fitting, brethren, that at such a time, and after such an event, your attention should be fixed upon it. It is a loud call to a *family*, when its head is removed by death. It is a solemn call to a *congregation* when its Minister closes his labours and lies down in the grave. It is a yet louder and more widely extended call, when the "Chief Shepherd" of *all* our sheep, the Minister of *all* our congregations, the Spiritual Father of *all* our Ecclesiastical families, is addressed as of old, "*Set thine house in order for thou shalt die and not live.*" It behoves each member of the family to give heed to a call like that, which comes but seldom in the lives of any. It is right, too, that when one to whom we have all been so long united in the bonds of Christian love and obedience, one who has so often come