

entrance into the soul, and are there blessed to the spiritual advantage of the hearers.

With this view, in connection with the melancholy event, on account of which we have now met, let me solicit your attention to a few lessons which are deducible from the words in which inspiration has caused the death of a great and good man to be recorded—words, so selected as to be eminently calculated to afford us many important and useful lessons.

I. We notice, then, in the first place, that our text intimates that there is a limited period appointed for man's continuance in this life. It is but for one generation. "For David, after he had served his *own generation* by the will of God, fell on sleep." The life of man is thus confined to his own generation, and that is but a short period. "The days of our years," says the writer of the ninetyeth Psalm, "are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away."

To the young, who are now in the morning of their days, buoyant with the strength and vivacity of youth, such a number of years may appear long to look forward to; but to the aged, who look back upon them, they seem but very short. An aged Patriarch, whose days had stretched far beyond this number, on looking back on the period he had passed through, could say, "Few and evil have the days of the years of my life been," though

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