

grave, meditating upon his own mortality? He remembers that his Lord and Master was there before him, and transformed the dreary chamber into a mansion of calm and peaceful slumber for all his followers; and that all who sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him.

Do we, as believers, think of beloved ones who have died in the Lord? Ah! who in this large assembly has not lost a near and dear relation? Who has not stood beside the bed of sickness and watched there with intense interest, and seen the feeble frame sinking under the blighting influence of disease? You have felt the tremulous pulse; you have knelt in solemn prayer, and arose to wipe the falling tear. You have witnessed the last struggles, as the spirit took its flight to the realms of glory. You have seen the precious remains confined in its narrow coffin; and as you stood beside the grave, and heard pronounced over that which was once so bright, so promising, so lovely, "Dust to dust, ashes to ashes," you have wept in bitterness, and mourned in sadness of spirit. But, dear brethren, was not the Saviour present? Did you not hear *his* gentle voice, saying, "The last enemy that shall be destroyed is Death?"

"Array'd in glorious grace,
Shall these vile bodies shine."

Meditate upon this delightful truth, then, dear brethren, and as you look into the graves of those you have loved see those graves illumed by rays of glory, emanating from the throne of God and of the Lamb, and your *sorrow* shall be turned into *joy*.

But I hear some of you saying, "If I had only had the privilege of being present when my friend struggled in death—could I have whispered words of love and grace in his ear, to cheer him in that fatal moment, or could I have enjoyed the mournful pleasure of seeing him quietly laid in his last resting-place, it would assuage my grief, and calm my disturbed spirit; but, alas! alas! I was not there. My friend was alone in death, and strangers had to perform the funeral rites." And who art thou, my Christian friend, that thou shouldst reply against God, or repine at the chastening of a Father's hand? "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" "Be still, and know that I am God." True, you were not present, but angels of light were there, and the presence of the Deity illuminated the dark valley and shadow of death for thy friend, and he sleeps in hope of a joyful reunion with thee in the resurrection morn.