

band, wife, child, friend, I might say *your* days may be numbered ; and your present example, counsel and influence, decide the happiness of those dearest to you, throughout eternity.

Well, therefore, may I come to you this morning, as the messenger of God, with the language of the Prophet in my mouth—" *Set thine house in order.*"

And I design applying these words to the urging upon you : First, the importance of immediate attention to the work of religion in the heart.

Secondly, such an adjustment of your worldly affairs as is the duty of every Christian in the prospect of death.

And Thirdly, that devotion to the religious wants of your families which may render your death-bed peaceful.

I. First: The importance of immediate attention to the work of personal religion. This will appear from the consideration of the worth of the soul. Our Saviour has said, "what shall it profit a man though he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"*

* Mark, ix. 36.