

was granted, that he might not pass away from life in insensibility, but might know of his approaching end, and glorify his God in death. Now, brethren, who can question,

Second—**THE DESIRABLENESS OF SUCH A STATE OF MIND?** Do not all covet it when thinking on death? It is admitted by universal consent! He who stands as the descriptive head of a vast portion of mankind; “the man whose eyes the Lord hath opened” to see the security and happiness of the people of God [Numb. xxiv. 2], but which a covetous love of this world had so closed that he did not cast in his lot among them; he who heard the words of the Almighty, telling the future glories of the redeemed; who saw the star, but followed not its leading; could speak of the sceptre of Christ, but submitted not to its rule; who vainly attempted to join in his own practice the service of God and Mammon; he gave forth, *as his heart's desire*, “Let me die the death of the righteous; and let my last end be like his!” [xxiii. 10]. Yes! at such a crisis, “more precious than rubies” is true wisdom [Prov. iii. 15], “knowing him whom truly to know is life eternal.” “All the things that thou canst desire” are not to be compared with “precious faith,” bringing “peace with God through our Lord Jesus” [Comp. Rom. iv. 25, v. 1]; dispelling doubt and fear; and keeping, as in a garrison, the heart and mind, in “perfect peace,” stayed on God! [Is. xxvi. 3].

Who could witness the joy and peace of our departing brother without prayer that, when called to pass through “the dark valley of the shadow of death,” he may find “a rod and staff” equally able to sustain and comfort! [Ps. xxiii]. During the last month, indeed, he was little disturbed in mind, though applying to a mass of business