

My readers, we, all of us, either live by faith or by sight; either upon things heavenly or things earthly. If on the former, let us go on upon the Word of God—everlasting glory is before us. But if on the latter, alas! our store will be soon exhausted. All these dear delights are but the brood of time, a brood that will soon take to themselves wings, and with her that cherished them, fly away. Oh, my readers, is it not common for many of you to suppose that they who live by faith in the enjoyments of a world to come, live upon mere imaginations? But are ye not mistaken? It is your enjoyments, and not theirs, that are imaginary. Pleasures, profits, honours, what are they? The whole form only a kind of *ideal* world, a sort of splendid *show*, like that in a dream, which when you awake is all gone. At most it is but a *fashion*, and a fashion that passeth away.—(1 Cor. vii. 31.) To grasp it is to grasp a shadow, and to feed upon it is to feed upon the wind. O that you may turn away your eyes from beholding these vanities, and look to the Lord Jesus Christ, and the substantial realities beyond the grave, for your never-failing portion!

But if not, if you still prefer this world with its enjoyments to those which are heavenly, how just will it be for the Lord Jesus to say to you at the last great day, "*Depart! Depart, ye have had your reward! Ye have had your choice, what would you have? You never chose me for your portion—you in effect said of me and my interest, 'We will have no part in David, nor inheritance in the son of Jesse; see to thyself David.'*"—Ah, now see to thyself, sinner!"

Christians—ministers—brethren—all of us! let us realise the subject. Let us pray, and preach, and hear, and do everything we do with eternity in view. Let us deal much with Christ and invisible realities. Let us, whenever called, freely deny ourselves for his sake, and trust him to make up the loss. Let us not faint under present difficulties, but consider them as opportunities afforded us to glorify God. Let us be ashamed that we derive our happiness so much from things below, and so little from things above. In one word, let us fight the good fight of faith, and lay hold on eternal life.

Christian Travellers.

A VISIT TO EGYPT.

BY REV. DR. JAMES WALKER, CARNWATH.

THE MEDITERRANEAN.

I cannot tell you* how I felt when I was first conscious that I was sailing on those famous waters so intimately connected with the civilization and Christianisation of the world. As we sailed along, *there*—visible to us for hundreds of miles, was that North Africa in which had flourished a splendid civilization, in which there had been one of the most vigorous Churches of the early Christian

centuries, the Church of Tertullian and Cyprian and Augustine. Under the shadow of yon mountains had marched the conquering Moslems to attempt the subjugation of the West as well as the East. The waves that bore us broke on Egypt and Palestine and Greece and Rome. We were, so to speak, in the very heart of the grandest and most sacred memories of human history. And yet there was another aspect of the matter. Those bright Mediterranean shores, from which culture and religion went forth as from their home, are everywhere now the scenes of divine judgment. The sceptre of world-wide supremacy has

* Written as a Pastoral to his own people.