

all our works, the emblem of the natural night is a most fitting and impressive one.

III. Let us consider, in the third place, the right practical bearing of these truths and illustrations, both in regard to our choice of work and our mode of doing it. Certainly we are not here, in the possession of those noble faculties with which our gracious Creator has endowed us, and in the enjoyment of the numerous precious privileges with which we are favoured, to spend our lives in vain. If God has given us a term of life, he has also assigned us a work, a mission, to the accomplishment of which we may devote ourselves therein. We are not of those who deny the fact or dare suppress the thought of man's accountability to God. We are not of those who have no better creed than this, "Let us eat, drink, and be merry, for to-morrow we die." We accept the revelation of the Divine will which has been addressed to us, as the only safe and sufficient exposition of human duty. We credit the inspired record when it proclaims to us the condition of sin and misery into which the fall has brought us, when it describes our need of some great remedy and assures us of the adequacy and availableness of the heavenly provision it unfolds, when it asserts the immortality of our souls and represents the obligations under which we lie to prepare for a coming judgment. And are not these the very first and greatest concerns to which we