

very near to us, and is even now almost at our doors ; those bands of marauders, who are for the moment discomfited, are watching their opportunity, and if England should be involved in war would doubtless invade portions of her dominions, if not the United Kingdom, with the aid of powerful auxiliaries supplying them with the resources hitherto wanting. It is not for our righteousness that we have been thus far preserved, the Lord is our defence and our shield. If troubles are imminent, be it ours to stir up our people, that they may turn unto the Lord with penitence and prayer, that they may put away from them all evil. Let us lead them to be looking for the coming of the Lord, for "unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation." This work will not be in vain, whether we are literally in the last days, whether this is the beginning of the end or not. Far better is it to be mistaken, to be disappointed in our expectations a thousand times, than to run the risk of not being on the watch when the time cometh. The Lord has appointed us His servants, to give to His household "meat in due season." "Blessed is that servant whom his Lord when He cometh shall find so doing." If we apprehend that the time is short, so much the more are we called to be constantly on the watch, to be diligent in our vocation, to be crying, "awake thou that sleepest." Let it be our care to set before our people a very high standard, not being content to have them simply in a state of salvation, but urging them to aim at the highest degrees of holiness.

I hope it is not necessary to urge any of you, my reverend brethren, to beware of giving your people anything resembling the moral essays that were in vogue some fifty years ago : that would be to substitute husks for nourishing food—to give a stone when they ask bread. Preach Christ, Christ crucified, Christ in all His offices ; Christ, as the way, the truth, and the life ; Christ, the alpha and omega—the beginning and end of our spiritual life, the one object of all our hopes and desires for time and eternity. Shew that nothing is of any value except as it is viewed in connection with Him ; that the most holy things become unclean when regarded apart from Him. But we cannot do this to any purpose unless we can speak from our own experience. We cannot make men understand how precious He is unless we have found him precious to our own souls.