

about to be taken from them, and we find them gathered together in earnest and anxious groups. Elisha is to succeed him in his prophetic office, to catch the mantle which falls from him as he ascends unto God. So he keeps near unto him; and as these two revered men of God are welcomed amongst the company who attend the schools of sacred truth and learning, Elisha is summoned aside to hear the sad news, which with trembling lips they whispered in his ear: "Knowest thou that the Lord will take away thy master from thy head to-day?"

Lest the composure of Elijah's mind should be interrupted at this solemn moment by any lamentations, or lest speaking of it publicly multitudes should assemble as idle spectators, or to counsel them to be calm and not to be disquieted because the Lord would make up their loss, Elisha replies, "Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace; be silent!"

The Spirit of God had made known to the people most interested that a great man was about to be taken up to his glorious reward. Sorrowing, like the elders of Ephesus, when on the shore at Miletus they bid St. Paul farewell, that they should see his face no more, they confide to Elisha the eager question: Knowest thou that the Lord will take away thy Master? Shall we never see him again? Is it indeed the case? Yes, verily, I know it. Hold ye your peace. In mute, expressive, silence and thoughtful acquiescence, realise the will of God.