

the seeds of decay and death are striking root in his frame ? Is it not, that he may be induced to go for advice and relief to one, who, is thought competent to help the body in the day of its infirmity ? If we were to see a fellow-creature on the edge of a precipice, when one step more in the direction he was pursuing, must dash him to atoms, why should we call upon him to stop and turn ? Would not our object be, to rescue him from the destruction that was before him ?—Upon precisely the same principle the Ministers of Religion set before men the sinfulness of their nature, to warn them of the dangers to which it exposes them ; to warn them of the Hell, which yawns beneath impenitence and unbelief, and to bring them to lean upon that arm, which only can keep them from falling ! Upon this principle, we preach to men their utter inability to earn by their own works the Salvation of their souls, that we may caution them against erecting the house of their future hopes upon the sandy foundation of their own righteousness,—the unstable base of their own “goodness, which is as a morning cloud, and as the early dew it goeth away ;” \* whilst we persuade them, under the Divine blessing, to build for Eternity upon “the Rock of ages,” †—“upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, JESUS CHRIST himself, being the chief corner-stone,” ‡—that, when “the flood arise, and the stream beat violently upon that house, it may not be shaken.” §

O, would that this may be the end of our present preaching ! It is with this object, and none other, that we this day exhort you, my Brethren, to make the privileges of the Gospel your own ; to flee unto its promises for “a covert from the tempest” || of the Divine wrath, and “to lay hold upon the hope it sets before us—as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast ;” ¶—that we this day, more than exhort you,—affectionately invite you to this ;—yea, that we bid you to it ;—for it is not in our own name, but in the name of the GOD we all profess to worship,—of the Saviour we all profess to know !

\* Hosea vi., 4. † Isaiah xxvi., 4. Marginal translation.  
 ‡ Ephes. ii., 20. § Luke vi., 48. || Isaiah xxxii., 2.  
 ¶ Hebr. vi., 18, 19.