

to the mind. A more intense interest in Divine things was shown, and a holy anxiety, that no mistake or delusion might be cherished, upon a subject so unspeakably important, as the soul's eternal salvation.* At this period our departed friend, displayed more of faithfulness than joy. He aimed at the possession of heartfelt religion. He could be satisfied with nothing short of having "the love of God shed abroad in the heart,"† and every indication, he discovered, or *thought* he discovered of the absence or feebleness of this principle, occasioned that distress of soul, which the child of God alone comprehends. He was truly "working out his salvation with fear and trembling."‡

The time however was at hand when fervent and persevering prayer, was to receive the answer, which the God of truth has pledged himself to give,§ when fear was to give place to hope, and trembling anxiety to the experience of holy joy. On the last day and night of our departed brother's life, the power of religion was shown in its most attractive form. It then became indisputably evident that as flesh and heart were failing, God was indeed the strength of his heart and his portion forever.|| Evidences too plain to be mistaken, of holy delight in God were evinced, and a strong desire to exchange the earthly scene for the immediate presence and more intimate fellowship of his Redeemer.¶ Then it was distinctly perceived and fully realized, that to those who believe Christ is precious,** and that to depart and be with him, is better than the fairest earthly portion.

As the moment of dissolution drew near, the power of faith was increased. Whatever clouds had obscured the mind before, they were now removed. The peace of God, that holy bequest of the departing Saviour, took full possession of the soul. That love

* Psal. 139. 23.
|| Psal. 73. 26.

† Rom. 5. 5.
‡ Phil. 1. 23.

§ Phil. 2. 12.
** 1 Pet. 2. 7.

§ Luke 18. 1-8.