

the Spirit, and placed by him under sanctifying influences, we should live for the good of our fellow-men. We should live to reclaim the erring and the wandering, to wipe the tear from the cheek of sorrow, to pour consolation into the breast of the mourner. We should be kind to all; we should seek the eternal good of all. Though we should not make our own happiness the end of life, because to do so is selfishness, to deify ourselves; yet living for the glory of God and the good of man, will yield us happiness greater far than we can obtain in any other way. Think then on the ends for which life is given us, and the truth as to these will serve to impress you with its importance and reality. The great end of life is not wealth, nor pleasure, nor honour; it is the glory of our Maker. We should improve our time in believing God's gospel of love, and in seeking the present and eternal good of our fellow-travellers to the never-ending hereafter.

3. Consider further that we influence our fellow-men for good or evil while we live. We are moral beings. Our actions are good or bad. We are receptive of influences for good or evil from our fellow-men around us, and we are active in exerting an influence on human society. We cannot help exerting an influence on others. We may as well attempt not to live at all, as attempt to exert no influence on our fellow-men. Righteous Abel yet speaks. Our influence will continue long after we are in our graves. The good man does good while he lives, and by his works and writings which he leaves behind him, he does good on this footstool of God, while his soul is enjoying the sunshine of the divine presence in heaven. Bad men do evil while they live; they influence their fellow-men for evil; and sometimes the evil they do by the profane oath, the obscene jest, their mockery of religion and their defiling writings, reaches eternity before they themselves reach it. Sometimes their works follow them to judgment. The influence we exert is according to our character. A good man produces the fruit of good influence, a bad man produces the fruit of evil influence. Hence the importance of right character. That the fruit of our influence may be good the tree of our character must be good—we must be Christians indeed,—we must be lovers of God. Character is that bias which results from the influences to which we subject ourselves, and the actions we perform. If a person yield to good influences and do good, his soul has a bias toward good, which is becoming stronger and stronger as he advances in days and years. If a person yield to