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nerates, purifies, and restores the man ; it leads
 him to the right use of his rational powers, pre-
 pares his heart for rational enjoyment, and leads
 his grateful soul to the only source whence he
 may derive a rational and permanent bliss. It
 forms the only certain basis on which his happi-
 ness can rest ; it holds forth those promises to
 his hopes, those pleasures and rewards to his
 faith, which will never deceive or disappoint him,
 but on which he may rely with the greatest se-
 curity. O where is the man who would not wish
 for the comfort and support of religion in death ?
 Who would not resign every vanity, bubble, and
 phantom he has ever possessed, for the solid joy
 of God's approbation, for the unspeakable felici-
 ty of being called, as the Blessed of the Father,
 to inherit the kingdom of Heaven ? If therefore
 we would dwell with them in his glory, and par-
 take of the rapturous joy which his presence cre-
 ates, let us cheerfully bear his cross, and if ne-
 cessary, his reproach, that we may share the
 benefits of his Death and Passion, and be always
 ready to meet his appearance with joy. I now
 commend you to God who is able to bestow di-
 vine consolations on the spirit he hath bruised ;
 and if you look to Him for your comfort He will
 assuredly give you "the oil of joy for mourning,
 and the garment of praise for the spirit of heavi-
 ness."