

of life to which it has pleased God to call them; for their ambitions and hopes should all be of an higher nature than such as can be satisfied with earthly possessions or distinctions, which must all sooner or later be left behind, and may perhaps be found to have been the strongest snares of Satan to their possessors. King Solomon was one of the richest as well as the wisest man that ever lived, and he says, "Better is a little with the fear of the Lord, than great treasures and trouble therewith." And again, "How much better is it to get wisdom than gold, and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver." Be thankful then, my dear children, for such moderate supplies of daily food as your heavenly Father sees fit to send you, and do not repine because others may have many more luxuries and comforts than fall to your share. There is a very equal share of happiness distributed to all classes of people, and the rich have many cares and responsibilities which the poor are exempt from. When we come to our last hour, it will be of very little consequence whether our lives have been passed in a palace or in a hovel, if we have Jesus Christ for our friend; and when our souls are passing into eternity, it will matter little whether our bodies are extended upon a bed of down or upon a bed of straw, for then it will seem as if our whole existence was before us, and as if the past was nothing in comparison to the future, except so far as we have used it as a preparation for the hour at which we have then arrived; and it is very probable that if we were then surrounded by every luxury that wealth could purchase, we would exchange them all for a cup of cold water, such as is within the reach of the poorest beggar, and would think a very few