

signs his property and his projects into other hands, and ceases to control them any more for ever. Then he closes his eyes upon all his earthly affairs, and is no more seen in the abodes of living men. His spirit, whose presence beamed forth intelligence in every feature, and supplied his limbs with strength and vigour, and prompted every pulsation of his beating heart, and circled life through all his veins, quits its material tenement, and leaves it to crumble into dust or become the prey of worms.

This effect of death is universal. It is no respecter of persons, but extends its levelling power to all distinctions. It stops the works of the righteous as well as of the wicked. It seals for ever the character of the just and the unjust. It prevents alike the expression of generous sympathies and the gratification of unholy desires. Under its benumbing influence the premier statesman must let go the helm of national affairs, and the brave warrior lay down his deadly sword, and the skilful mechanic drop his ingenious tools. It gives the finishing touch to the most brilliant as well as the most obscure life-history. It crushes the wordling's fondest hopes and terminates the flow of Christian benevolence. It brings the madness of folly and the strength of wisdom to nought.

In these two respects, and according to the words of the text, as representing the certainty of death to every one of us and its effect in arresting