

Peter's character when the Lord does come ; he will lose nothing by his death. " Be ye like unto men that wait for their Lord."

The character of their waiting was to be like servants at the hall-door, that, when the Master knocked, they were ready to open to Him immediately. It is a figure, of course, here ; but it is the present power of the expectation that is alluded to. And the ruin of the church has come in by practically saying : " My Lord delayeth His coming." " Blessed are those servants whom the Lord when He cometh shall find watching."

" Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning"—" your loins girt about with truth" for service. You must not let your garments flow loose ; that is, you must not let your thoughts and affections spread abroad, but be ready with your garments well girt up, and your lights burning. This is not rest, for it is an exceedingly tiring thing to have to sit up and watch through a long dark night. But in the spirit of service the heart, affections, thoughts, feelings and desires must all be girt up. And this requires real painstaking not to let the flesh go its own way ; for it is a great comfort sometimes to do this, if but for a moment ; but if we do we shall surely fall asleep like the virgins. For as the virgins went to sleep with their oil in their lamps, so we may go to sleep with the Holy Ghost in our hearts. But blessed are those servants who are found watching. The Lord says this is the time