

exclusively, supremely! Oh! surely not. Should we be so absorbed with our parting for "a little season" here on earth, as to forget or, at any rate, to lose sight of the great fact that we must all soon meet before the judgment-seat of Christ! Should we not strive, dear brethren, to look beyond the short time of separation to the long time of union?—beyond the comparatively trifling occasion of parting with one another, to the transcendently important hour when, one by one, we must stand before our Judge! "What is life?" God puts the question, and He answers it. "It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." Or, as the little hymn so beautifully expresses it—

"What is life? a scene of troubles,  
Following swiftly one by one;  
Phantom visions—airy bubbles,  
Which appear, and then—are gone!"

And what, therefore, should be the inference? Why surely, that for the short time we are here below, we should be ever having before us the end; and daily preparing, watching, praying, that we may "be accounted worthy to stand before the Son of Man." All thoughts, all feelings should be subordinate to this:—What of my state when I come to appear before the judgment-seat of Christ? Before that tribunal "we must *all* appear." "ALL!" You observe, there is no eluding that searching scrutiny—"Every eye shall see Him!" If, therefore, we even should never meet with one another here upon earth again, there is a time, a most solemn time at hand when we most surely shall. And if it is to be a joyful meeting, what must our course be now?—how are we each to live, to conduct ourselves during the short intervening period, that, when the time does come, we may together "enter into the joy of our Lord?"

To answer this question, we can but reiterate, brethren, what (I may most conscientiously affirm) has been the sub-