

followers the reviving and animating influence of his own example of submission and obedience to the Father's will. As a Master, ever solicitous of the welfare of his servants, he reminds them of the coming night of death which is to bring their earthly service to a close, when it will be impossible for them further to improve the day then past, or redeem the time they may have lost; and thus enforces upon them the necessity of watchful, patient, persevering diligence in the discharge of all life's duties, while now they have light, and strength, and opportunity to attend to them.

It is to this general view of the text, as announcing a fact in which we are all concerned, and by which we ought all to be deeply affected, rendered so much the more instructive and useful by the Saviour's participation in the reality, that I propose for a little to direct your attention on the present occasion. "The night cometh, when no man can work."

The natural night is here employed as a symbol of death, and we have no difficulty in perceiving generally its emblematic fitness. It is possible, however, to stretch the figure to an unwarrantable and extravagant length, and by introducing points of resemblance, which are only partial or casual, impair its character and weaken its effect. I am of opinion that if we rightly consider them, we shall find in the words of the text, which are really explanatory and descriptive,