

and unreserved dedication of ourselves to the service and glory of God.

Dear Brethren,—We desire to remind you of the dignity, importance, and duties of your religious vocation. God has redeemed us to himself that we might be a peculiar people, zealous of good works. He has united us in Christian fellowship that we might mutually assist and benefit each other, and more effectually promote the salvation of souls. Let us act, then, in consonance with these facts. Though surrounded and allured by the things that are temporal, let us look at the things that are spiritual and eternal. The tabernacles we inhabit shall soon crumble into dust. Our probationary period shall very soon close. From the place we inhabit and from our present means of intellectual and moral improvement we shall soon be summoned. "What manner of persons, then, ought we to be in all holy conversation and godliness!" Surely Christianity should be our joy and crown. In the possession of a divine attestation of the forgiveness of sins; in a participation of "the divine nature;" and in the fruition of "all joy and peace through believing," let us go forward to higher discoveries, to greater enjoyments, to more extensive and efficient exertions in the service of God. So shall we be "burning and shining lights;" partaking largely ourselves of divine favors; and instrumentally diffusing throughout the land that scriptural "holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord."

Influenced by these principles, we should studiously avoid the allurements and excitements of the world; and cultivate and display the spirit and tempers of "pilgrims and strangers." Whatever stations have been allotted to us in the arrangements of divine Providence; whatever duties may devolve upon us in our several relations, we should constantly remember that every thing is designed to be subordinate and tributary