

the aid of divine grace, when health promises a long sojourn on earth, when the faculties maintain their wonted energies, is always well-pleasing to the Most High. Though He is the High and Lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, yet with him that is of an humble and a contrite spirit will He dwell, to revive his spirit and cheer his heart, as he advances to the heavenly country. And how happy is the latter end—how peaceful the departure—of those, who have their loins girt and their lights always burning! The fears of everlasting misery distract the guilty; the justice of a Holy God affrights the impenitent; but before them no alarms arise, around them no terrors spread. As they loved the LORD, and sought Him while He might be found; as they believed in Jesus, and, by faith, appropriated to themselves the promises; so they rejoice in the hope of glory and everlasting bliss, through the mercy of God and the redemption that is in CHRIST. Around their path, faith sheds a purer light than the starry firmament displays, to guide them to the Zion of their King. Around the death-bed of the Christian, it casts a radiance of unclouded splendour, which shines more and more unto the perfect day, that forever cheers the children of God in their holy habitations. In the final struggle, when the body yields to the stroke of death, the soul, still victorious, contemns the fruitless assault; and, borne in the chariot of Hope, it ascends from the field of its triumph to the throne which the soldier of the cross has won.

Say, then, my brethren, as you contemplate the closing scenes of the sinner and of the Christian, and as you call to mind the weighty fact, that through one of them you must pass, whenever the summons from above must descend, which do you prefer? In the words of Scripture, you will at once exclaim—"Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his!" This desire after eternal happiness is an inherent principle of our nature, and, therefore, this

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