

raiment was of the simplest, coarsest material ; his food dried locusts and honey from the wild bees' nest ; his beverage nought but water ; his sleeping-place a cavern, perhaps, or the bare ground beneath the shelter of some tree. There, holding converse, doubtless, with his heavenly Father, he passed his earlier years, seeking and obtaining heavenly "knowledge" to prepare himself for the noble task assigned him. Where is the Baptist now ? In Heaven, inheriting God's promises : one of the bright-robed Company who, having been "beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God," stand "before the great white throne," singing "Alleluia," "Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb." How "precious" the "knowledge" leading to such a consummation—yea more "precious" than the costliest "jewel !"

Let me not, however, be misunderstood. I am by no means advocating so close an application to study, or a life of such severe asceticism, as may be detrimental to the faculties of the body or prove a bar to an interchange of the agreeable amenities of social life. On the contrary, I feel assured that without a certain amount of physical exercise, and exercise that can amuse as well as invigorate, your studies, however diligently pursued, will be eventually productive of little benefit either to yourselves or others. I recollect the case of a young man, a contemporary of my own at the University of Cambridge, who was said to have