

diligent in their labour of love; yea, it will cheer their adversity, buoy them up under troubles, raise them above the influence of temporal things, and fill their minds, while living and dying, with the most joyful and glorious anticipations. To possess the Apostle's hope, it is necessary that you live the Apostle's life. To grasp eagerly at material things—to have no deep thoughts of self or sin—to have no abiding principles of faith and hope and love—that is daily to walk under the condemnation of God, and at last to flutter out into darkness “where the worm dieth not.” But if you have taken Christ as your only trust—His love your only portion—then may you stand by the side of the great Apostle and claim the like consolation. Fighting the same foes, looking for the same Heaven, you may repeat the same confession:—

“Soon shall this earthly frame, dissolv'd,
In death and ruins lie;
But better mansions wait the just,
Prepar'd above the sky.

“An house eternal, built by God,
Shall lodge the holy mind;
When once those prison walls have fall'n
By which 'tis now confin'd.

“Hence, burden'd with a weight of clay,
We groan beneath the load,
Waiting the hour which sets us free,
And brings us home to God.

“We know, that when the soul, uncloth'd,
Shall from this body fly,
'Twill animate a purer frame
With life that cannot die.