

Such, my Brethren, are some of the circumstances of the Believer's state, during his sojourn here,—but this is his constant song in the house of his pilgrimage: "*I shall be satisfied, when I awake with thy likeness.*"

*When I awake.*—The Believer shortly shall accomplish his day: then, he shall rest from his labours,—lie down in the grave,—and sleep in Jesus. But shall he for ever sleep? Man lieth down and riseth not, till the heavens be no more:—But then, he shall arise;—for then, God will have a desire to the work of his hands; and the Believer, at his call, will awake again—to a new and immortal life. Then shall be fulfilled, in its highest sense, that saying of Christ to his Church: "Thy dead shall live,—my dead body shall arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust, for thy dew is as the dew of herbs."

*When I awake with thy likeness.*—At the resurrection morn, the Believer shall awake with his body fashioned like unto his Lord's glorious body, and with his soul perfectly conformed to the blessed image of his Lord and Saviour. As he now bears the image of the earthly, he shall then bear the image of the heavenly. Beloved, says the Apostle, now are we the Sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he shall appear, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Thus, the Believer, though he cannot form an adequate conception of the ineffable felicities of his heavenly state,—yet knows in general,—that when he shall awake, at the appearing of Jesus,—he shall be made completely like his Lord, both in the incorruptibility of his body, and in the perfect holiness of his soul:—that in the beatific vision, his eyes shall behold the divine glory in the person of Christ,—and that this view of his dear Lord, as he is, will perfect the renewal of the divine image upon his own person, and render him meet, both in soul and body, for the full and eternal enjoyment of heavenly bliss.