

afflictions, but in the hour of death He comes to appoint him an everlasting abode in that world into which sin and sorrow never can enter. Do you ask, again, what is death to the Christian? We reply, *it is the consummation of his joys*. On earth he has obtained an earnest of his heavenly inheritance: he has so tasted of Divine joys as to whet and increase his appetite—his holy desire for those pure enjoyments upon which he is now about to enter, without the interposing hindrances and disappointments which too often happen to him here. What is his death? It is *the fulfilment of the great purpose of his being*. Restored to God's image, his mind has in a humble measure harmonized with the mind of His Maker: it has been his great and paramount object to live not for this but for a better world; and now he may well rejoice in a death which comes to fulfil the intense desires of his soul. What is death to the Christian? *It is to him the great day of meeting*. It is too often regarded only in its melancholy aspect, as a separation from objects beloved. But the heart deeply imbued with that Divine grace which will make us to regard as our best friends those who bear in their souls most of the image of their maker, will readily pass over the consideration of the few mourners who are left behind only for a short stage of life's journey, and will stretch forth towards that happy and glorious assemblage into whose company death ushers the believer. If even in life the christian by virtue of the sympathy of feeling given him is said to *have come* to the general assembly and church of the first born; how much more impressive is the consideration when this is about to be not figuratively but actually realized; when the servant of God is on the point of joining in person the glorious company of the Redeemer; and as the beautiful language of Scripture expresses the thought, to sit down with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the Kingdom of his Father—nay, when he will see his Saviour face to face, and will be permitted to behold the glory of that Divine and exalted Being, that Blessed Christ, who then, in the character of man as well as God, will dwell in the midst of his people!