

gives the mandate, Return again to your dust, is the same with the sound of the last trumpet. Death fixes the doom of every one, finally and irrevocably. This surely is an event which none of us can remove in our thoughts to a remote age. To-morrow, to-day, the fatal mandate may be issued. Watch therefore ; be sober and vigilant ; ye know not at what hour the Son of man cometh.

Having now treated both of the creation and dissolution of the world, I cannot conclude, without calling your thoughts to the magnificent view, which these events give us, of the kingdom and dominion of the Almighty. With reverence we contemplate his hands in the signal dispensations of Providence among men ; deciding the fate of battles ; raising up, or overthrowing empires ; casting down the proud, and lifting the low from the dust. But what are such occurrences to the power and wisdom, which he displays in the higher revolutions of the universe ; by his word, forming, or dissolving worlds ; at his pleasure, transplanting his creatures from one world to another ; that he may carry on new plans of wisdom and goodness, and fill all space with the wonders of creation ! Successive generations of men have arisen to possess the earth. By turns they have passed away, and gone into regions unknown. Us he hath raised up, to occupy their room. We too shall shortly disappear. But human existence never perishes. Life only changes its form, and is renewed. Creation is ever filling, but never full. When the whole intended course of the generations of men shall be finished, then, as a shepherd leads his flock from one pasture to another, so the great Creator leads forth the souls which he has made, into new and prepared abodes of life. They go from this earth to a new earth, and new heavens ; and still they remove, only from one province of the divine dominion to another. Amidst all those changes of nature, the great Ruler himself remains without variableness or shadow of turning. To him, these suc-