

they know that in each case this activity had its origin in the *birth* of those who are now so incessantly engaged. There was first birth, then development, then manhood, and with manhood ceaseless industry of mind and body. In spiritual matters, however, thousands who admit to the full all the above, will persist in reversing this well known law ; for the idea to which they most tenaciously cling is, that if they can only DO those things which are pleasing in God's sight, that *then* God will grant them life. In spiritual matters, as in physical, life is *first*, activity afterwards.

You meet a man anxiously pressing toward the cemetery, and, stopping him, ask the cause. "I have just obtained," he says, "a large contract, and want men to enable me to fulfil it." "But why go, of all places, to the cemetery?" you again ask—"none there but the dead." "The very reason why I *do* go," he replies—"unemployed hands there, sir! unemployed hands! I have something for them to do." "The man's mad," you say, and turn away, feeling melancholy at the shipwreck of his intellect. No doubt he is, but not more so, in a spiritual sense, than he who addresses a whole congregation dead in trespasses and sins, as if