

Tabitha, and what sort of persons they were who surrounded St. Peter, to shew him, with tears, the coats and garments which she had made for them. Do you not recognize in them so many living temples, and their lamentations were the cause of her being raised from the dead? For they surrounded St. Peter with streaming eyes for no other reason but to shew him how needful she was to their support by her alms and labours; and the Apostle, after having put them all out of the room, kneeled down and prayed, and having raised her from the dead, called the saints, and presented her alive to the mourning widows. If you wish your memory to flourish after your death; if you have any love for solid glory, imitate this charitable widow, build houses like these, the constructions of which will require less expense, and be much better expended than upon dead matter, and which will only require you to exercise charity towards such as resemble yourself. Behold the true manner of rendering your name glorious, and of reaping infinite advantages.

"You sow gold, to reap righteousness; you sow transient things and gather everlasting treasure. The husbandman labours on a less certain foundation; and he is obliged to sow, though not fully certain of a remuneration; since it is the bosom of the earth that receives the grain as their depot; on the contrary, when you give alms, you place them in the hand of God, where it is impossible that any thing can be lost. When, therefore, you are so charmed with the beauty of gold that you will not distribute

for fear of losing it; represent to yourself the husbandman, the usurers, and the merchants, who commence by expending, and voluntarily suffer some risk, though the success of their labours, and the issue of their commerce may be unpromising and ever doubtful; for is there any thing more doubtful than the waves of the sea, the bosom of the earth, and the promises of debtors. For those who lend upon interest, not unfrequently lose the principal; on the contrary, those who choose heaven for the field of their divine agriculture having nothing of this to fear, being fully assured of the principal, and of the interest, if it be proper to give the name of interest or usury to what they shall receive, since it will so far exceed the capital, and in effect the principal is nothing more than a small matter which they have distributed, and the kingdom of heaven is the interest of our usury which they receive. Do you not behold a most wonderful commerce, in which the gains are infinitely greater than the capital? But, in the mean time, while you are filled with joy at the prospect of a future world, shall infallibly enjoy others in this life. You shall receive a great liberty. You shall no longer be exposed to snares and stratagems. You shall extinguish the most ardent fire of calumniators which they may have kindled against you. You shall pass the remainder of your lives without anxiety for the preservation of your treasures, and that uneasiness too visible in the many: and hope of eternal treasure shall serve as a means on which you may easily mount and ascend to heaven."