

at length seal it up in the deep sleep of a final impenitence.

"It was wisely foreseen, that, should the sinner *be permitted to reserve to himself* the choice of 'a convenient season' wherein to turn from sin to righteousness, that 'convenient season' would never come; and *the specious plea of keeping every day holy alike*, would often be found to cover a design of keeping none holy at all. It seemed good therefore to the Church to fix a stated time, in which men might enter upon the great work of their repentance. And what time could have been selected with greater propriety than this 'Lenten' or spring season, when universal nature, awakening from her wintry sleep, and coming out of a state of deformity, and a course of penance, imposed for the transgression of man, her Lord and Master is about to rise from the dead; and putting on her garments of glory and beauty, to give us a kind of prelude to the renovation of all things? So that the whole creation most harmoniously accompanieth the voice of the Church, as that sweetly accordeth to the call of the Apostle, 'Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.'"

I am,

My Christian Friends,

Your faithful servant,

JOHN BETHUNE.

Montreal, 19th February, 1847.

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