

lived through
 est a thousand
 is descendants,
 t protracted life
 ow brief is the
 The waters of
 ent of a change
 he constitution
 as swept away
 r many animals
 abridged the
 ndeed. Since
 od are rich in
 nate the frail-
 an tabernacle.
 ng representa-
 has given of
 ory of boastful
 uch of that
 ndled, speaks
 a hireling, his
 esses, he adds,
 they flee away
 as the eagle
 weaver's shut-
 ing grass," the
 images under

which the sacred volume reveals the perishable-
 ness of man; and to present his frailness in the
 most striking view—to exhibit the life on which
 we are so prone to lean in that character which
 truth requires, the Psalmist exclaims, "mine age
 is even *as nothing*."

"As nothing," indeed! For, granting to man
 the full amount of years which God, in his mercy,
 ever permits him to reach, how great is the sub-
 traction to be made! Till the season of child-
 hood is passed, and the mind is formed, and the
 corporeal frame reaches to its maturity, how many
 years must be deducted! And of the three-score
 years and ten, which man is sometimes allowed
 to arrive at, fully one-third is occupied in sleep!
 And alas! if we look to the days of idleness
 which are passed—to the grievous amount of time
 consumed in unprofitable pursuits—yes, even in
 ungodly occupations,—how much must the re-
 flection be deepened and saddened, that human
 existence is a frail and brittle thing! How for-
 cibly must come home to every heart the truth of
 what the Apostle utters in the text,—“Brethren,
 the time is short!”

If to the proofs within and around us of our