

Or have you not uniformly found your diligence abundantly repaid, by the composure of your mind, by the pleasantness of his service, by the indulgence of your hopes, the enlargement of your experience, and the success of your endeavours to serve him? Is it nothing to you that you will honour God by eminent piety; and that you are placed in those circumstances, where true religion so peculiarly needs the silent and convincing illustration of holy lives? Brethren, you do not, you cannot appreciate how much your every day conduct is determining the weight of your own eternal glory, how much it is moulding the character, and destiny of immortal minds, on which you are hourly leaving permanent impressions, which are not one of them indifferent, but all salutary or mischievous. Lay aside then every weight that would retard; abandon every company that would pollute; relinquish every habit, that would obstruct the growth, or the comfort of religion in your heart.—“Let thine eye be single, and the whole body shall be full of light.” Let your spirit be right, and your worldly business shall be no obstruction, but the very commonest employments of life shall be occasions of serving the King of heaven, and the most familiar objects of nature, and events of providence, be so many ministers of instruction, and means of grace. Thus may you find a living well in ‘passing the valley of Baca,’ and go from strength to strength, till each ‘in Zion shall appear before God.’ Soon ‘our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem.’ There is but a step between us and death. ‘Brethren the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none; and they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not; and they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away.’ How rapidly have I seen it changing within the little circle of our congregation within the revolutions of four years.