

do the vanities of time, its riches, its honours, its pleasures, flee away from its frown! Of what value to the departing spirit are the coveted glories of earth, as it enters the portals of death?

To-morrow is the Sabbath. It commemorates a risen Redeemer: it is the pledge of our resurrection from the dead; "for if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also that sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him." Let me then welcome its hallowed hours: let its Divine calm subdue my soul; let me enter the chamber of communion with God; let me turn my feet to His sanctuary; let me behold Him in His ordinances; and let me enjoy a foretaste of that sweeter communion and that nobler worship where is no setting sun, no closing hymn, no departing congregation.

My last Sabbath will soon arrive. O may it find me waiting for my Lord! With joyful steps let me enter the dark valley, fearing no evil: the gloom of death shall vanish in the light of His coming who is the Resurrection and the Life. "Jesus has trodden the dreary path before me: the dying Jesus has brightened the dismal mansion, and left an inviting fragrance in those beds of dust." In the strength of my Redeemer, I will not fear thee, thou grim messenger; thy blunted arrow shall fall harmless at my feet; and, by the side of my Immanuel, I will pass through the kingdom, and from thy dark domains I will ascend to His Father and my Father, to His God and my God.

MARRIAGE TIES.

No deliberation or circumspection can be too great in a transaction of such importance as the choice of a partner for life. An error here leads to the most awful consequences. It is fatal and irretrievable. The Christian is concerned, in a particular manner, to proceed with peculiar caution in forming this delicate and important connexion. No personal attractions, no brilliancy of talent, no elegance of manners, no polish of education, should induce him to form such a connexion till he has unquestionable evidence that these pleasing qualities are connected with *real and genuine piety*. This is the gem which sparkles with undiminished lustre in the darkest seasons of adversity, and in the broad sunshine of prosperity; which illumines the cottage and adorns the palace which outshines the brightest diamonds upon earth; and which will emit eternal splendor from the crown of glory in heaven. The