

committed to the grave crumbles and mingles with its native dust. Nature's most beautiful symbol fails to furnish the feeblest *proof* of the resurrection. The ancient heathen, gathering the ashes of his departed friend into the sepulchral urn, could only murmur the dark soliloquy, "Is this the sorry ending of all life's affection and purpose? Is the loved voice hushed for ever?"

"Fond man,

Behold thy pictured life; pass some few years
Thy flowery spring, thy ardent summer, thy
Sober autumn, fading into age, and
Pale, concluding winter comes at last
And shuts the scene."

No! not until we come to the Bible does the darkness of the grave flee away. Looking into the empty tomb of a risen and enthroned Redeemer—listening to the divine promise, "All that are in the grave shall hear the voice of the Son of God and shall come forth." Believing on Christ for a present and eternal salvation, so that in a soul risen from sin we have an earnest of a body risen from the grave—all doubt and hesitancy vanish. Casting the light of revelation beyond the veil we can joyfully exclaim, "*We know* that if the earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." It was by the contemplation of Heaven the Apostle was sustained to endure the trials of earth. When wave after wave of trouble broke over him, threatening to overwhelm him in despair, the hope of Heaven lifted his head up above the roaring sea. "Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed." And it is well for all Christians sometimes to survey their future prospects. The survey will keep them from becoming weary in well-doing, and even render them more