

We are not therefore surprised to find St. Paul exhorting the young Christians to whom he wrote, to follow those "who through faith and patience" now "inherit the promises" of God in the heavenly paradise; and St. James urging "the twelve tribes scattered abroad," to take the Prophets of the Old Testament as an example of patience, both in suffering and labor.

If Christians in general are directed to take the Prophets as an example, it is perfectly legitimate for us to trace the strong points in Elijah's character and conduct as he drew near his latter end, and a brief exposition of his closing hours may prepare our way for a sketch of the life and labors of an honored and beloved standard-bearer of the Lord, lately taken from among us.

We do this, in order that we ourselves may be stimulated by the precious memories of the past, and that you may be drawn in closer bonds, and by more enduring ties to the central source of all life and blessing.

In mechanics, as in nature, we find a great force called the centripetal,—a force or power by which things are drawn to the centre: were it not for this law the vast bodies in motion would fly off from their centres in broken fragments. The planets would haste from their orbits, and confusion, disorder, and ruin every where prevail.

In morals, we have just such a principle or force, it is called *Love*. It is the first sweet, ripe fruit of the Holy Spirit that draws the soul to God and all goodness. The great attractive force that controls by its power, thrones, dominions, principalities, powers, intellects, and hearts. A cord of heavenly origin, linking souls together, fine as gossamer, but mightier far than adamant. The first sin disturbed the relationship existing between man and God.