

Till the hour of our receiving
Promised joys with Him.

Dear Christian reader, is there nothing to help us in this? You will remember that in the very last chapter of God's eternal word the Lord Jesus says, three times over, "*I come quickly!*" Then, if our hearts miss Him as being in touch with and set upon Him, how this "watch weel" will correspondingly suit us.

If people of the world, feeling their position of danger, are wise enough to use such a watch-word, should *we* fall short of it? They watched to keep trouble away, but it is our privilege to watch for fulness of joy to come.—And every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure." 1 John iii. 3. Our longing for the Lord's return should not arise so much from a desire to be relieved from trying circumstances in which He gives grace to sustain as from a wish to be in the company of Him who has loved us, and given Himself for us. We may be quite sure that He who still loves us, and is so deeply interested in us, will not rest satisfied till He has all His own in the full unhindered joy of His own blessed presence forever.

Conscious knowledge of this necessitates patience to keep us back, so to speak, from those pleasures, rather than wishing to be clear of the trials in the midst of which it is our privilege to glorify God. Christ alone knows fully the joy set before Him and us, and He now waits in the perfection of patience for it. May our hearts be directed more into this patient waiting for Christ—watching well for His sure return.

When faith and hope shall cease,
And love abide alone.

But should any readers scan these

lines who are still strangers to the blessed heavenly hope, and are fearing the Son of Man coming to judgment, which He surely will do for souls found without God and without hope in the world, we will just quote a few Scriptures :

"The Son of Man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to *watch*. Watch ye, therefore: for ye know not when the Master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cock-crowing, or in the morning: lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you, I say unto all, WATCH!"—Mark xiii. 34-37. "Watchman, what of the night? The watchman said, The morning cometh, and also the night; if ye will enquire, enquire ye: return, COME" Isaiah xxi. 11, 12.

O sinner, ere it be too late,
Flee thou to mercy's open gate,
And join Christ's waiting band,
Trim your lamps and be ready,
Hear the midnight cry.

"Behold the Bridegroom cometh!"

J. N.—Simple Testimony.

A SERPENT AMONG THE BOOKS.

One day a gentleman in India went into his library and took down a book from the shelves. As he did so he felt a slight pain in his finger, like the prick of a pin. He thought a pin had been stuck by some careless person in the cover of the book. But soon his finger began to swell, then his arm, and then his whole body, and in a few days he died. It was not a pin among the books, but a small and deadly serpent.

Poisoned by a serpent among his books!