

solace to many hearts, distressed by the removal of its eloquent author: "O, the glorious fullness of the idea of a completed resurrection, which at once ransoms the body from the grave and the soul from the foul sepulchre of sin. Do you wonder, brethren, that, like Paul of Athens, we should preach to you 'Jesus and the resurrection?' Is there not something in the tidings that thrills the heart of a believer, just as an emigrant's heart is stirred in some far distant settlement by a sweet song of home? Does not time appear a more solemn stewardship, and duty receive a richer stimulus, and the life that now is appear but a light thing in comparison with the life which that resurrection inspires? Dwell on this comforting thought, thou tempted and sorrowing believer, for it speaks encouragement and assurance to thee. Art thou a mourner? The sable which thou wearest is only the emblem of that darkness which has fallen upon Christ for thee. Is He gone—thy tender-hearted friend? Doth thy gentle wife no longer minister? Are thy children, entranced as by the basilisk eye, fallen into that truce that has no waking, and makes no parade of pain? O! let Jesus stand by thee, and as thou listenest to His inspiring word the frantic shall subside within thee into the hush of quiet sorrow; thy tears, if they gather still, shall gather silently; and thy frame shall feel the pulses of a glad hope, as when Nature stirs in the first blush of spring. If they and thou art alike in Jesus, thou hast not looked the last upon thy friends. Thou shalt see them again; not wan and shrunken, as when the latest smile played upon the face, and there was scarce strength left to ripple it from lip to eye, but in immortal bloom that knows no hectic of fever, and in fadeless youth that chills beneath no frost of age. And thou, brave wrestler against evil, often foiled, but who dost not cease in thine endeavour, take thou the comfort too, for Jesus is the resurrection for thee. Thy yielding faith, thy slavish fear, thy maddened freaks of passion were but the compromises of thy perverse and unworthy unbelief. All that makes up the foulness and corruption of thy moral death shall trouble thee no longer. Thine Easter shall be complete, and shall be glorious. Let thy faith fasten upon the Redeemer's perfect words. Let there be a glad response in thy heart when He says to thee, 'Believest thou this?' and there is nothing to hinder thine absolute and entire emergence out of the death of sin."