

the human body—how weak—how liable to disease and death.

How necessary to be prepared. There is no work nor device in the grave, and no repentance there. The eternal destiny of the soul depends upon the state of preparation at the last hour. Yes, the momentous hour is coming, the last hour; and it is a fearful and solemn one, even to the wisest and best. It will be an hour of parting. We must part with the friends we cherish, the kindred we so fondly adore, we must bid adieu to the scenes we love, and to all our pursuits; and it will be a parting of the soul and body. We may strive to banish the thought of our human weakness—we may immerse ourselves in the business of the world—we may drink of the pleasures of this life—but the reflection comes up; the hour of parting is coming.

It may be very near. It but seldom tarries for old age. Most of the human family come to their parting hour in the morning of life. It does not always wait for sickness and disease to waste the system. For many are cut down by a sudden and unexpected stroke. Nor does it in all cases wait for men to prepare. We see more persons leaving the world in a sinful state, than we do in a state of preparation. Not, however, that any have not time sufficient allowed them to prepare in; but many want too much time. They want to spend long lives in total neglect of all religious duties, and then have time enough added, in which to prepare for death. But the hour of parting may not be a year, a month, not even a day distant. It may be the next hour.

FRIENDSHIP.

FRRIENDSHIP, is the state of minds, united by mutual affection, and abounding in acts of reciprocal kindness. There is but little friendship in the world, mankind content themselves to live without it. So many qualities, indeed, are requisite and essential to the existence of friendship, that few are prepared in the present state of Society, either to exercise or reciprocate it. A heathen writer says, "To live in friendship is to have the same desires and the same aversions." There is a general selfishness, and attention to individual interests among men, so that friendship is but little known, and seldom appreciated. This is to be regretted, as it is unfortunate for mankind. It should be the study and aim of all who wish well to man, to promote friendship in every grade of human society; as where this exists, there esteem and love must predominate over all that is hateful in the disposition leading to acts of benevolence and kindness.

The Book of Proverbs abounds with praises of friendship, and with encomiums on its value. "A friend loveth at all times." "There is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother," the true meaning of which is, that true friendship is more operative than natural affection. "As ointment and perfume rejoice the heart, so does the sweetness of a friend by hearty council." And the genius and obligations of the Christian religion inculcate this virtue. Indeed religion cannot exist without it.—There may be the name, and the shadow, but the substance is wanting: And