

passed upon them in this respect ; they are no longer what they were. Once death was a gloomy theme ; they dared not regard it with a steady gaze. Like the men of the world generally, they were absorbed in the cares, or the vanities of time : but the power of the Lord has rested upon them and taught them to look habitually upwards and onwards ; in this, as in other things he has impressed upon them his own image. Instead of shrinking from the contemplation of death, no event of their being engrosses so much of their thoughts—or, if this seem rather too much to affirm, certainly we must say that none is so habitually thought of as deserving their highest regard. Like others they must attend with diligence to the affairs of life—nay, in these they must be exemplary as well as diligent—but this they will do, as those who see a new relation in all things here below to the things above ; this they will do with a continual reference to that solemn hour, which, while it rises darkling and gloomy to others, in their view approaches as light from heaven.

Since God thus highly values the death of his people, it is natural to suppose that this truth would often be manifested in the happy feelings with which that day would be met : and though this may not always be the case, it is by no means unusual. Light from above has not only fallen upon the subject in God's word, but peculiar emotions often give evidence of the preciousness of that moment in which the saint of God breathes out his soul into the bosom of his Saviour. There is often at such times a holy solemn calm—a confident resting on the promises of God in Christ—a joyful, nay, even a triumphant hope that peculiarly mark that hour, as no other period of life was marked, giving proof at once of God's high regard for this moment, and of the response which his people render in their feelings.

And why should it not be so ? Is there not abundant reason for it ? Let us enquire what is death to the Christian ? We answer, *it is the end of sorrows*. Many are the sorrows of the righteous but the Lord delivereth him out of them all. In the course of his life He sustained and strengthened him under