

LIVING FOR THE LIFE TO COME.

PAUSING in our busy life now and then, to look back upon the past, we realize with a sort of mental shock how swiftly time is gliding from us. The man of middle age will say, for instance,—“Is it possible! it is twenty years since I was a lad just entering college,” or “just commencing business.” What a short time it seems, and yet how large a part of a life-time! Let us reckon onward, as well as backward! Twenty years from now, and the man of middle age will be an old man, or at least upon the borders of old age. “Lord, teach us so to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom!” The concerns of life crowd in upon us, engrossing our thoughts hour by hour, and shutting out of sight the inevitable end, which, even at the furthest, can be but a few years distant, and may at *any* hour overtake us. God does not intend that we should pass our life in the constant contemplation of death, for if this were so, the powers which he has bestowed upon us, to be exercised in this life, would be paralyzed and wasted; but he intends us so to live that our lives shall be a preparation for a higher life hereafter. How terrible upon our death-beds to be constrained to acknowledge that our life here has been lived without any reference to a hereafter; that our time, our talents, our possessions, whether great or small, all coming from God, *all entrusted to our keeping, to be put to use for His Glory*, have been spent solely for our own gratification, our own worldly success, pleasure, or ambition. We shall have no excuse to

offer, if this be so. The voice of God Himself has ever been sounding an awful warning in our ears. The story of the rich man and Lazarus was spoken by Divine lips for our admonition. “Set your affections on things above.” The Church, Christ’s witness in the world, is ever echoing those sacred words of loving warning, and saying: “This is the way, walk ye in it;” is ever holding forth a guiding hand, and offering the cup of blessing and Divine Refreshment to our lips, as we walk through the wilderness of this world. She is ever recalling to our minds the duties we owe to God and to our fellowmen for Christ’s sake, bidding us practise the Christian Graces of Faith and Love, Self-sacrifice, Devotion, which will ensure us God’s blessing here on earth, and through the blood of Christ, the happiness of Heaven.

BELIEF OF CONSEQUENCES.

IT is a favorite maxim of modern life, that it is of no consequence what a man believes, if he lives a good life. Definite faith is at a discount in many so-called “churches.” Their preachers scoff at creeds and ridicule dogma. Garnished with sentiment and garlanded with “sweetness and light,” this “liberal” philosophy is put forth as an improvement of the old Gospel which calls upon men everywhere to repent and believe. In this way, of course, the community is prepared to listen to the “mistakes of Moses” or any other dogmatic atheism. It would not be so bad if there were not many, professing and calling themselves Christians, who quietly assent to every bold denial, and