

SERMON,

Preached on the occasion of the death of **CECILIA**, wife of **Peter White, Esq.**, of **Pembroke**, on the 23rd of February, 1852.

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth : Yea saith the spirit, that they may rest from their labours and their works do follow them."—REV. XIV. 13.

It is better to go to the House of Mourning, than to go to the house of feasting, for that is the end of all living; and the living will lay it to his heart. Sorrow is better than laughter, for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better—the heart of the wise is in the house of mourning. Under the impression of these wholesome truths, we would seek to improve the present mournful occasion; remembering that grace alone can enable us so to do. We will find very little difficulty in complying with the injunction of the wise man, "In the day of prosperity be joyful," but it is quite a different matter to give ourselves to the kind, and degree of consideration, required in the day of adversity; and yet earnest reflection on such occasions—on their causes and consequences, are among the appointed means for our spiritual improvement; which above all we most earnestly desire this day. This important end will most certainly be accomplished if our "hearts are in the house of mourning," and we remember that "this is the end of all living"—yours and mine.

One natural reflection, will be this: "I know Thou wilt bring me to death, and to the house appointed for all living." It is not too much to affirm, that the recollection or forgetfulness of this event, will most certainly affect our latter end. It is not the man who neglects and disregards the evil day, that makes the happiest passage through life, or the safest exit from our sinful world. All men do not die alike, nor is it expected they should,—some die in utter darkness as to their eternal state and take a leap in the dark, others in awful indifference, like the beasts that perish,—some anxiously concerned, and some in frightful apprehension of coming wrath, as if already conscious of the kindlings of the fire that never shall be quenched, and the knowings of the worm that shall never die. This reminds us, dear friends, that *life* is a far more serious and important thing than death, since the circumstances of our dying will be sure to be affected by our manner of living. Life is the seed time for eternity, what we sow here we shall reap there!

Uncertainty, dread uncertainty, encircles the death bed of many of the sons of men,—aye, even of some of those shall be everlastingly saved; but whatever may be the nature of the closing scene, sunshine or storm, hope or fear, God will always take care of his own,—in life he will be continually with them, and they with him, he will guide them with his counsel and afterwards receive them to glory! So taught the prophets,—so Jesus—and his disciples, and how delightful to think, that what Jesus and his disciples taught on earth, should be confirmed by a voice direct from heaven, saying "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord"! Consider—

I. What we are to understand by the phrase, "In the Lord—dying in the Lord."

II. In what the blessedness consists.