

He held habitual communion with things unseen and eternal. His conversation truly was in Heaven, and he was ever looking forward to the end of life with quiet, happy expectation. Hence sudden death, which is a dread to many, was not to him a repulsive thought. As he was always ready to depart, he did not fear being called away whenever God so pleased. It was his habit to repeat from time to time, when his mind turned toward this theme, these simple lines :

“When faith and patience, hope and love,
Have made me meet for Heaven above,
How blest the privilege to rise,
Snatched in a moment to the skies.
Unconscious to resign the breath,
Nor taste the bitterness of death ;
Such be my lot, Lord ! if it please
To die in silence, and at ease.
When Thou dost find that I'm prepared,
Oh, seize me quick to Thy reward.”

And so it was ordained for him. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye—by a stroke than which none ever fell on man more suddenly, more gently—he passed from the presence of his associates, from the anxieties and interests of earth, to take his place among the saints in glory everlasting. He walked with God, in a long and happy life, and he was not, for God took him.