

pletion. This most wise and faithful worker is our example here, as in every other part of Christian conduct, in that he always lived in view of the solemn and momentous hour, which was to close his appointed labouring day, and proclaim his arduous undertaking for the redemption of man from guilt and misery, and his recovery to long lost purity and happiness, in all its magnitude and grandeur, for ever finished. Hence the frequent touching allusions which he made to the time when he would offer up himself a sacrifice for the sins of the world, and by which he shewed the intensity of his gracious desire and ardent zeal to fulfil an event whereon all human weal and very much of the divine glory were depending. It was in the nearing prospect of this determined limit to his antecedent ministry that he uttered the words of the text. The night of death was close at hand; and, duly measuring the residue of his work by what remained of the day for doing it, he found a reason and an argument for unceasing application. And, though after his death many great works peculiar to his mediatorial office would receive his attention and engage his unresting activity, he would not have the shades of intervening night to fall upon his closed eyes and powerless arms, as he expired upon the cross, until he had performed every preparatory act of his righteous and holy life. Whatever would require to be said of the distinctive circumstances