

couraged to seek that grace, and thus participate in the present and eternal advantages of common salvation. We greatly need such encouragement. The inroads of death upon the ranks of our church have, during the past few years, been painfully frequent and sudden ; our fathers in the ministry, our companions and fellow-labourers in the Lord's vineyard, have been cut down by our side, have been swept away from the midst of us ; we look for them, but they are not—their bodies sleep in the dust, their spirits have returned to God. We mourn over their departure ; but "we sorrow not as those who have no hope ; for if we believe that *Jesus* died and rose again, even so them also which *sleep in Jesus* will God bring with Him." "For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God ; and the dead in Christ shall rise first ; then we which are alive, and remain, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air ; so shall we ever be with the Lord." Most thankful ought we to be, that by the grace of God we may so live in this world, as to be prepared for, and secure, unending happiness in the world to come. The *possibility* of our realising this blessedness is assured to us not only by Divine teaching, but by human example—by a great cloud of witnesses who have run the race, reached the goal, won the prize, and received the crown of life which fadeth not away. To find such examples of victorious piety, we have not to go back to the remote ages of antiquity, they are to be found amongst those who were once our own contemporaries—brethren beloved, with whom we have taken sweet counsel, who have walked with us to the house of God, whose faith we are to follow, considering the end of their conversation, Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, to-day, and