

the appointed channels of His grace. Nay, He required that we should be associated with Him in His sufferings, that their saving virtue might pass into us.

In His infinite condescension He seemed to leave His sufferings incomplete, that we might have it in our power to make up what was wanting to them and take part in the mystery of His cross. Only then shall His atonement avail us when united with our atonements. He has not removed the toil, the anguish, the pain of our fallen condition terminating in death itself, that they may sanctify us by union with His sufferings and open to us the gate of life. The moment of consummation shall be for us as for Him the moment of our triumph. *When this mortal frame hath put on immortality, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy victory? O death where is thy sting?*

He owed it to His own majesty, to the magnificence of His heaven, to the dignity of our human nature gifted with free-will thus to admit us to the mystery of His atonement, to a share in His sufferings; to make our salvation dependent on the union of our merits with His, our everlasting triumph, the fruit of our own efforts, patience and combats, as well as of His passion and death.