

SHORT-SIGHTEDNESS OF MAN.

A dew-drop, falling on the ocean wave,
Exclaimed in fear—"I perish in this grave;"
But, in a shell received, that drop of dew
Unto a pearl of marvellous beauty grew;
And, happy now, the grace did magnify
Which thrust it forth—as it had feared—to die;
Until again, "I perish quite," it said,
Torn by rude diver from its ocean bed.
O unbelieving! So it came to gleam,
Chief jewel, in a monarch's diadem.

—Trench.

HOME QUESTIONS.

What is thy wealth, reader? Is it money, or houses, or lands? Hast thou gold, and bills, and bonds? Dost thou heap up riches in the coffer? or dost thou make the bank thy treasury? Surely thou hast heard that riches have wings; and that many who are rich for this world are poor indeed for that which is to come! Ask, then, of God, that he may show thee the riches of his grace, and make thee a partaker of the riches of his glory.

What is thy strength? If it be that of a vigorous frame, a broad chest, and a sinewy arm, the ague may shake thee, the fever may burn thee, and consumption may waste thee till thou art weaker than other men. Dost thou ever think of this? Art thou ready for the throes of pain, and the languor of sickness? Be assured thou wilt have them. Go to the strong for strength, and to the wise for wisdom, and then, as thy day is, thy strength shall be.

What is thy choice? Is it the applause of the world? pomp? ambition? fame? Why, these are play-things which are soon broken! glittering bubbles that soon burst! Is it wise to choose food that will not keep? garments that will not wear; and possessions which are here to-day and gone to-morrow? Choose something better! Make a better choice, for thou can hardly make a worse. Choose the one thing needful? the Pearl of great price, the hope of eternal glory.

What is thy zeal? Is it for trifles, or for things of value? for thine own weal, or for others good? for time or eternity? for earth or heaven? Is thy zeal foolish, or according to knowledge? Does it bind thee to the world, or wean thee from it? Is it hot, hasty, and fitful; or calm, enduring, and persevering?—Saul had a zeal, but he was a persecutor.—Peter had a zeal, but for all that he denied his Master. Be zealous in love; be zealous in faith; be zealous in good works; and be zealous in promoting the kingdom of the Redeemer.

Who are thy friends? Are they rich, powerful, and devoted to thee? Have they indulged

in large professions, and made large promises? Still have a care! Hast thou tried them in trouble? Hast thou sought favour of them in the day of calamity? "Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint." [Prov. xxv. 19]. Choose for thine earthly friends lovers of peace, and remember there is a heavenly Friend "that sticketh closer than a brother."

What is thy heritage? Is it an estate?—The cast-off property of those who have gone before thee? A mere life-interest, that may be but for an hour? O there are better things than these! Give up the chaff for good grain; thy husks for the fatted calf; thy passing shadow for a permanent reality. Look higher than earth, and trust in thy Redeemer, so shalt thou have a heritage of peace and joy, and be an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven.—*Evangelist.*

HOW MEN DIE.

Some men die in ignorance, unconcerned, and seemingly without fear for the future. Others are sullen and silent, as if determined to brave it out at all hazards. Others are so wearied out by long illness and continued pain, that they are eager for the change, yet give no evidence of being in a fit state to appear before God. Others abound in professions of hope and confidence, yet leave impartial observers at a loss to conceive what basis there can be for such assurance. Others, again, give their friends every reason to think that they are real children of God, and make the dread passage with little or no sensible comfort—in not a few cases, under a dark and heavy cloud.

The majority of consistent Christians have their last end as it is described by the Psalmist in a single word; it is "peace." A few of them, however, taste heaven this side of the cold Jordan, and their rapture is a thing to be witnessed in order to be understood.

There is a very simple rule for the direction of any one who feels concerned about the manner in which he is to meet the last enemy. This is to live habitually in communion with God through Jesus Christ. Such a life cannot end miserably. Death must be to it only the crowning seal of its steadfast course, the finishing touch of its pure blessedness.—*Christian Intelligencer.*