

as men come forth from the pressure of affliction as careless, as worldly, as unconcerned as ever; still are there very few who have not, at some time, found by experience, what the word of truth had continually urged upon them, that this life is a state of trouble and anxiety and care, of suffering, of bereavement, of death. And are not these things evil: are they not to him, even, who receives them as the dispensation of the Lord, and seeks His grace to sanctify them to the soul, not joyous but grievous things, afflictions, calamities, evils? Oh! happy they who so regard the evils of the present life, as to make them an occasion for more diligently seeking their true happiness in God. Happy they who so feel the pressure of the evil of these days, as to be drawn for all their comfort and their joy to Him who has redeemed them from the evil, and opened to them an inheritance of glory! Beloved, how many of us can look back upon the year now near its close, and trace the evil days of trouble, bereavement, suffering, or distress! Oh! can we in looking back upon them see that good has been brought out of the evil; that the sting of calamity has been withdrawn by our having an interest in the love of Christ; that our trials have been turned into blessings, by advancing us, under the Lord's grace, in submission to our Father's will, and