

any efforts from it. If it is a living church, then there will be ground for hope. It may be weak, it may be sickly, it may seem to be almost expiring; still, if it lives, it must possess some strength, and there is a chance that it may recover and acquire more. "Let the dead bury their dead." We do not expect to work miracles. It may not be well to waste efforts upon it. There is enough for us to do to improve the condition of the living. This case may therefore be passed by.

The corresponding states which are nearest akin to these are *Sleep and Watchfulness*. The strong man armed is as helpless as a child while his senses are locked in sleep. Samson was shorn of his strength when sleeping in Delilah's lap. While men slept, the enemy came and sowed his tares. Whatever degree of strength a church may possess when fully awake, it will avail nothing at other times. It is written of the sluggard, "Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep; so shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy wants as an armed man." And this is as true in the figurative sense as the literal, and it is as true of churches as of individuals. That man will never prosper in his business who devotes all his hours to sleep, and that church will never become strong and flourishing which is always disposed to indulge itself in a similar way. Let it keep awake, let it always be upon the alert, let it ever be in readiness to engage in every good word and work, let it afford no opportunity for the sower of tares to gain access to the field, or a treacherous friend in an unguarded moment to reduce it to weakness by severing its locks of power, and all will be well. Indolence is said to have been the "original sin." There is no good