

But the period of her departure was at hand, and she was shortly to be removed beyond the reach or the need of human comforters. It was natural, dear brethren, for us to anticipate that a life so steadily consistent, so exemplary and so christian, would end in peace; and in this instance we were not disappointed. In the correspondence from which we have derived information of her decease, are some striking proofs of this. The minister whom we have mentioned as a frequent visitor in her sickness writes as follows, "The night before she died, I was with her, and among other things which I remember was this remarkable sentence, 'I expected to be *supported* by my Saviour when I came to this hour—but I have been *comforted*—*It is lovely to die.*'" A near relative writes, "Our dear Eliza had no fears of death whatever, but seemed to wish to be gone, she expressed herself the day before she died as being quite ready for her departure, and said, as she looked at her Saviour she could see him smile upon her as if to welcome her home." My own respected correspondent says, "She said to me at my last visit that she was almost at times tempted to question the genuineness of her peace—it was so perfect and unbroken."

Thus peacefully and sweetly died one whose whole pure and peaceful christian life prepared those who knew her to anticipate for her no other death than this. She realized most perfectly the doctrine of our text, "precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." If I seem, my hearers, to have said too much on the subject of her exemplary character, I must again assure you, I should not have ventured to do so, but that I am persuaded that the general conviction entertained of the christian excellence of which I have spoken demanded and would amply sustain all I have now said. With regard to her I cannot myself but adopt the language of another beloved and early friend of the deceased, "never did I feel such unbounded assurance of the final happiness of any human being." We are, at the same time, far from desiring to represent our departed sister as a perfect character: we suppose that in the midst of many excellencies, she had her faults. Whatever they may have