

It is absolutely necessary that we should press ever onward, having *holiness unto the Lord* inscribed upon all our acts—in the marts of business, and in all our daily avocations; for without it we ne'er shall see the Lord.

The prophet Zachariah appears to have caught a glimpse of millennial glory in the golden age of humanity. Job and Daniel also looked forward and beheld the Ancient of days when the angels and all the seraphs of light would exclaim, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty." Oh! for the joys of those halcyon days. *Holiness unto the Lord* will then dwell from the rivers unto the ends of the earth; and all shall know the Lord from the least to the greatest—songs of ecstasy and joy will roll on for ever.

Oh! what a joyful meeting! Heaven and earth shall join together and help to swell the mighty chorus: "Hallelujah! for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth!" What a scene! Earth, and all things therein, shall pass away, and the joys of eternity be ushered in.

Awake! O Christian! awake to nobler deeds! Arouse; strive to be more holy—to be prepared for the great rising day. God will not look upon sin with any allowance. He requires us to be pure; otherwise we would be unfit for the society of Heaven. Are we labouring to this end? Let us examine ourselves, and see what we are doing in order to augment our happiness here, and our eternal felicity beyond the grave. Pause a moment. Ponder over the past, and resolve to be more faithful. A time is coming—'twill not be long. Soon our pilgrimage will be ended. And as a tree falls, so it lies. He that is unjust will be unjust still; he that is polluted will be polluted still; he that is righteous will be righteous still; and he that is holy will be holy still.

After death comes the judgment. What a solemn thought! We must all stand

before the judgment-seat of Christ. Oh! that you and I may not be among that number that shall call upon the rocks and mountains, saying: "Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb." God only knows how soon before we shall be in the eternal world—perhaps before the closing of the present year. What are we about? Are we laying up treasures in those heavenly mansions? Are we living a life of holiness? Do we realize our immortal destiny? Listen! yes, listen to the sweet voice of the dear Saviour, gliding in the smooth whispers of His revelations. Harken to His claims; think of them by day and by night—grow in grace—increase in *holiness*; and in the end God will give us the victory.

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### RELIGIOUS TORTURE.

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"FROM the Adirondack Mountains comes a just complaint and protest against the cruel rites of baptism performed there by the sect which believes in immersion as an essential Christian rite. 'On bitter cold days,' says a correspondent of the *New York Tribune*, 'with the thermometer at zero, the rough rivers, hid in thick ice, are bared with axe and spade, and the converts—often sweet young girls of tender age—are plunged in. As we see them struggling in evident fear and agony, shrinking from their water-soaked garments, which freeze about them, we can but ask, if this be imitating the blessed Master? Instinctively, we ask, had Christ preached and baptized in this climate, would He, who healed the sick, have risked the life of the body, to freeze out the innocent stains of girlhood? It is one of the inexpressible inconsistencies of weak humanity, that followers of the Divine Lord should, in his name, commit cruelties that unbelievers would shrink from. If they are not insane,