

professions of esteem for the dead be anything more than a name, if there be any reality in the value we attach to their lives, let us not be chargeable with the inconsistency and unfaithfulness of ceasing to be followers of them who are now inheriting the promises. If we would have grieved to offend the meek and holy spirits of the just when living, let us not dishonour their name or violate the pledges we exchanged, by aught that is offensive now. The sincerity of friendship is tested by the separation of friends. If our unity of sentiment and cordiality of fellowship, if common interests and common aims, do not survive a temporary absence, our attachment is empty and vain. Let not the brief space which intervenes between us and the grave, effect a disunion, in our principles and sympathies, from those whom we are destined soon to meet around the throne of The Eternal. Rather let us strive to claim a nearer kindred with Him whose friendship is closer than a brother's, and whose name and righteousness are the endearing and imperishable bonds which unite all His disciples in one holy company—one endless and blessed brotherhood.

But while God thus sanctifies the memory of the just by taking them to himself and keeping them by himself, when they are removed from