

of watchfulness and diligence, that neither by your precept nor example you may injure any immortal soul ; but that, when called hence, you may be rendered happy by the conviction that you have done your duty in every station in life in which you have been placed, and in every connexion which you have formed.

To conclude, I can truly say of you all, in the spirit of the Apostle, that my heart's desire and prayer to God for you is, that you may be saved.* "For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? For ye are our glory and joy."† And in the selection of the subject which I have made to-day, I would not mar the joy with which many of you may have entered upon this New Year. Nay, I would sympathize in your joys, as well as in your sorrows. But I would also remember, that we are now nearer by a year to the period of our death ; and would call upon you and myself to renewed efforts in making our eternal calling and

* Rom. x. 1.

† 1 Thess. ii. 19, 20.