

others, to bring forward on these occasions, such circumstances as may render the memory of the just blessed to us. We must be at the same time careful to confine ourselves within our proper sphere, to submit religiously to the Divine dispensation, and profess our belief and confidence that in all such things the Judge of the whole earth does right. He is a righteous Judge, and therefore we will not presumptuously attempt, as it is sometimes done, to ascribe bliss, or certain degrees of bliss in heaven to our departed friend, however strong our wishes may be, or whatever ground we have of hope.

He of whom we now speak was indeed a most devoted servant of his heavenly Father; and his heart's desire and unceasing object seemed to be, that he might not only be a good Christian himself, but also, and more especially, that he might prove himself a faithful Minister of Jesus Christ. And we have good hope, that through the merits of his Redeemer and the mercy of his God, he may be a partaker of the benefits of the sacrifice of that Saviour, in whose merits alone he put his own trust, and taught others to put their trust also in the same Rock of salvation.

The Revelation of the Gospel by Jesus Christ, must always be considered an act of the pure goodness and unmerited favour of the Almighty to His sinful creatures. The glad tidings of salvation through a crucified Redeemer, are made known in His written Word, in which are contained also His gracious encouragements and precious promises: and all so plain that he who runs may read them. But frail man, prone continually to evil, is too apt to neglect the concerns of eternity, and to pay a divided attention to "the one thing needful."

In compassion to the wants and frailties and lost state of man, and for his continual instruction and edification, God has been pleased to appoint and establish in His Church a standing Ministry. He has appointed a succession of Ministers whose peculiar office it is to preside over the spiritual concerns of the people committed to their charge,—to assist and guide them in these high matters, "not as having dominion over their faith, but as being helpers of their joy,"—to unfold the great truths of the Gospel, to put them continually in remembrance of the things which belong unto their peace, and to exhort and stir them up to a suitable and holy