

heaven, where neither moth nor rust corrupt, nor thieves break through and steal." Here the honours and pleasures of time wither in our grasp, our garments are moth-eaten, and riches take unto themselves wings and fly away, but the treasures, and happiness of heaven are unfading and eternal. And yet are any among us, uninterruptedly, and with scarcely any other thought or employment, busied with merely worldly avocations, and never seriously, and zealously labouring after that bread which nourisheth the soul unto everlasting life? Surely, my friends, we do not imagine, that heaven is to be gained by a few short steps, and that while the most toilsome and unwearied efforts are put forth for worldly wealth, or worldly honours, the eternal dignity, and felicity of the saints in light are so little esteemed as not to require to be diligently, and steadfastly pursued, the exercise of our constant endeavors, and the use of every means placed within our power. To the most pious Christians even, what a wide field of advancement and high improvement here lies before them! so that the holy Apostle counted not himself to have attained, either to be already perfect, but this one thing he did, "forgetting those things which were behind, and reaching forth unto those things which were before, he pressed towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Let as many, therefore, as be perfect, be thus minded, still pressing towards the mark, and giving all diligence to make their calling and election sure.

We know not, my Brethren, upon what sudden, or unforeseen occasions we may be stretched on beds of languishing, or of death,—how soon we may be taken out of this busy world, and laid in the silent tomb. There the eye is for ever closed upon the scenes and lessons of time; the ear is for ever shut to the invitations of redeeming mercy here held out to all; the hand is powerless that may now be stretched forth in deeds of piety and beneficence, and no sound of penitence, gratitude, or entreaty, thence ascends from earth to heaven. Let us walk therefore, while we have the light, lest darkness come upon us. "Whatever your hands find to do, that do with all your might. While God is thus gracious, and worketh in you to will, and to do, be ye fellow workers with Him, and work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, in the diligent use of every appointed means, and the practice of all the duties of the Christian life.