

Death is faced; his sting, as it is entering the soul of the perishing, is often plucked away; many, in grappling with him around the beds of those already struck, fall beneath his hand; and we believe that this courage, and philanthropy, and charity, mainly spring from trust in God and hope in CHRIST.

And as persecution raged around, as blood flowed in rivers from the Church, and the Christian knew not how soon his might swell the stream, doubtless encouragement was often drawn from the thought, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord:" and doubtless often since,—as Christians have stood around the grave of friends—martyrs to their duty, and listened to the words, "I heard a voice from Heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord,"—doubtless they have been encouraged and strengthened, and gone back to their work with a fresh and firm resolution to be faithful unto death.

Nor does this blessedness come only upon those, who, from love to Christ, die in the cause of Christ: it belongs to all who faithfully serve Him,—to all who cling to Jesus for salvation; indeed, the passage may be considered remarkable for this,—that it is said, those who die in the Lord are blessed; in other words, those