

What joys beyond thought or expression am I sensible of! I am assured of God's mercy to me through Jesus Christ. O! how I long to die and to be with my Saviour!" This is true religion, which is the perfection of human nature and the joy and delight of every one that feels it active and strong within him. It is true my Brethren that this is not arrived at all at once; but, is attained only by continual watchfulness and constancy in prayer. Such were the habits of our much esteemed Brother JOHN ROBINSON THOMAS, who departed this life at the early age of thirty years.

Now, Brethren, a few words of encouragement to those who are of the less favored race. How great does it exalt the mercy and goodness of the Universal Parent of mankind, to perceive that His regard is equal toward His children and people, whatever may be their stations and conditions in the world. To the poor and illiterate, as well as to the rich and learned the gospel is preached; and those of every class who become truly humble and poor in spirit, and those only, will cordially receive and rejoice in it. Learning and knowledge are, indeed, ornaments and improvements of our nature, and, as well as riches, rank and influence, enables us to enlarge the sphere of our utility and beneficence. The wisdom of Providence to promote order and government in the earth has, indeed, ordained a diversity of talents and conditions amongst men; but He has always graciously declared that, to the religious and faithful, improvement even of the fewest talents, shall be annexed to the highest reward that can be conferred upon them, namely: that of "Well done good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord!"

Now, Brethren, in conclusion. In the most solemn and serious manner you who have taken up the sword to fight against Satan; allow me to recommend strongly to you temperance in all things, as well as the study and practise of religion,—as that which is the most important of all things, and which is both the light of the world and the salt of the earth.