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and holy converse as represented in his writings,—those writings by which he, being dead, yet speaketh,—has rendered him an instrument of saving benefit to perhaps more than he could have influenced by having a longer period of personal labour assigned to him ; as the Israelitish champion slew more of the enemies of his country in his death than in his life. Had Howard or Wilberforce died, the one, when about to undertake his noble task of prison reformation, and the other, on the eve of devoting himself to the cause of emancipation ; those acquainted with their intentions and energies would have been ready to say, "What a misfortune has befallen the world in their decease !" But would this have been a correct feeling ? Strictly speaking, no. The proper view of the matter would have been that their death, at the particular juncture, was upon the whole best, and that the All-wise Disposer of events saw it to be so, else he would not have withdrawn them from the field.

There is a time to die, and that time may be the morning of existence. There are not a few persons in this congregation who have had children taken from them by death ; and who have found it hard, when this has occurred, to realise the truth that every thing which God does is "beautiful in his time." We expect the old to die. The grey-haired, feeble, tremulous old man, to whom the grasshopper has long been a burden, expires without more astonishment on the part of survivors than when the sun, having completed its semidiurnal circuit, and come by gradual approaches to the horizon, sinks at length beneath it. How different when a child, in all the beauty of a strong and vigorous boyhood, just entering on the course of life, full of promise, one of those whom a Christian poet so exquisitely describes as

"Young loves, young hopes dancing on morning's cheek ;
Gems leaping in the coronet of love ;