

will terminate in the night of death, though we know not how soon, and in regard to the latter, that it is impossible to reach or enjoy it without a better nature than what belongs to us as the posterity of Adam, there cannot be a more pressing and imperative demand than that of giving all heed and diligence to make our calling and election sure. Believe me, you will be all the better citizens, merchants, students, statesmen, soldiers, for being Christians, for the profession of Christianity is not intended to withdraw you from the occupations of public life, but so to regenerate and leaven your distempered natures as to qualify you for the faithful discharge of all your duties, in whatever station or sphere they may happen to lie. And let me assure you by all that is certain in the approach of death and affecting in its ceaseless ravages, and by all that is solemn in the expiring struggle in which mortals close their eyes upon this earthly scene,—the cutting short of the day of grace, the removal of all further opportunity of repentance and amendment, the sealing upon the spirit of the mark and character in which it is destined to return to God, and the departure of the soul into the awful confines of eternity—that, not being Christians, whatever else ye may be, and whatever else ye may do, ye can be neither great nor good, either in the estimation of your own consciences or the approbation of your God. While therefore it is day—the little, uncertain,