

ed. These opportunities will soon pass away. Your generation will soon be all gone, and you will have to accompany them too. Though you may be now but just entering on the stage of active life, yet do not flatter yourselves with the expectation of a long continuance. Your life at furthest cannot continue very long, and it may very soon terminate. Human life is limited to three score and ten or four score years, but it is not ensured for that period. The young die as well as the old. The infant passes from its mother's breast to the tomb, as well as the man who is bowed down beneath the weight of four score years. Neither the vigor of youth, nor the maturity of age can resist the shock of death, nor save men from the devouring tomb.

To all of us, therefore, this event gives an urgent call to prepare to meet our God. Death comes to all, but he often comes with little previous warning. We know not what a day may bring forth. In the midst of life we are in death. Even while in hopes of a long extended life of usefulness, many are suddenly cut off. On the day previous to Mr Rankin's death he wrote with his own hand a letter to his partner here, which he concluded with a postscript, in which he expressed his expectation of reaching Miramichi by the end of May; yet by ten o'clock on the following day he had ceased to breathe. A letter from his brother, dated Liverpool, 6th April, 1852, gives the following account of the concluding period of