

table. I am persuaded that you find the effect of this injurious to the growth of religion in your souls. It is likely to make you more careless, and too probably will lead you by and bye to give up the Lord and His table together. Come often then, but come clad in the marriage garment required by God in Holy Scripture, which Christ has purchased, and will bestow on you if you ask him.

In conclusion, dear friends, let us all seize the morning hours of this new year, for wholesome meditation on the short comings of the past, and for resolutions of amendment by the grace of God in the future. What are to be the events of the new-born year, what joys or sorrows are before you, whether life or death, who can tell? But this we know, "that all things work together for good to them that love God."\* Pray that such may be your character, and then, come what may, all will be well. Some of you are far advanced in the vale of years. Trim your lamps, and be like them that wait for their Lord. Soon you will hear the midnight cry, the Bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet him.† But who so young as to be beyond the reach of such a cry? How many youthful forms have gone down to the grave in the very last year. And so will it be still. O then give your hearts betimes to your Lord. Leave not religion for the time of sickness or old age, which you may never see; but early seek the Lord, who says He loves them that do so.‡ The world invites you to follow its ways, but you will not find in them comfort in life, nor peace in death.

I write unto you young men,§ surrounded as you are by manifold temptations, earnestly entreating you to be watchful against them, and to pray for that grace which alone can enable you to withstand them all, and especially *that one*,

\* Rom. viii. 28. † Matt. xxv. 1. ‡ Prov. viii. 17. § 1 John ii. 3.