

our petition—"From sudden death, good Lord, deliver us!" influence us, by thy divine power, immediately to "set our house in order," for we know not when we shall have to appear in thy presence—we know not the circumstances under which the call may be made! "Teach us so to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom!"

Can youth, or health, or beauty's bloom, protect from the advance of the last enemy? Let me remind you of her, who is now gone, and you will own that these, could they have availed aught, had been a sure defence to her. Can the esteem of a large circle of acquaintance, and the respect of all around, retard his progress? Again I refer you to our departed friend, who enjoyed these advantages most largely. But, who of you can, for a moment, entertain ideas so repugnant to either reason or Scripture? The text speaks most markedly, and from the manner in which the truth contained is expressed, it bears additional weight:—"What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death? shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave?" No, my brethren, "there is no escape from that war." Even against you has the mighty victor aimed the fatal blow; each of you has he selected for his victim; each of you is unbared to receive the deadly stroke. The Most High "has determined your times, and noted the bounds of your habitations;" and when will the Supreme Disposer of events cause your existence to cease? You know not how soon; and like the unconscious victim ascending the altar-steps, you will fall a sacrifice. None can pretend to say that he will survive till another day shall dawn; much less that he will descend to the last abode "in a full age, as a shock of corn cometh in his season." Even towards you, to whom appearances seem so favourable, the fell destroyer of mankind stretches forth his hand; and you will soon fall prostrate beneath his arm. The foe to others, will not show compassion to you; and whether