

recognize the ties which connect us with the heavenly world and the redeemed in glory; let us be ever seeking to walk worthy of that high and holy relation, having our conversation in heaven; and let us rejoice in anticipation of the time when we shall be joined to the society of the just made perfect who have gone before. Even a heathen could look forward with delight to emancipation from the cares and turmoil of this life below, and to being associated with the virtuous dead in a diviner sphere. With how immeasurably greater satisfaction, as having so much better a faith and hope, with what joy unspeakable and full of glory, ought not the believer to cherish the thought of a similar emancipation, of a similar immortal consummation! Having such a prospect before us, let us endeavour to realize the salutary influences which it is adapted to exert while we sojourn here—ever, by a patient continuance in well-doing, aspiring to a glorious and honourable immortality.

"Seek those things which are above."

COL. III. 1.

And what are the things which are above? Holiness—or conformity to Jesus, and entire devotedness to His service. Happiness—flowing from the manifestation of Jehovah's glory, the presence of Jesus, and the soul's delight in His will. Unity—saints above realize close, intimate, and indestructible union to Father, Son, and Spirit; they enjoy sweet and constant union with each other, and the holy angels; they have unity of design, work, and enjoyment. Seek those things which descend from above; as faith—which believes, trusts, and prefers God's word: love—which has God for its author, Christ for its principal object, and spiritual things for its chosen subjects; fellowship—with Father, Son, and Spirit, and all spiritual subjects.—In a word, all spiritual gifts, graces and operations. Seek them earnestly, principally, and constantly. Think much and often upon them. Highly value and esteem them. Constantly prefer them to earthly things. Labor to possess and enjoy them. God giveth liberally, and upbraideth not. You have not, because you ask not. Ask and receive. Receive and be happy. Your God bids you "Rejoice."

Rise, my soul, and stretch thy wings,

Thy better portion trace;

Rise from transitory things,

Towards heaven, thy native place."

—Rev. James Smith.

COMFORT IN DEATH.

The pleasures of the world cannot comfort a man when he draws near death. The brilliant ball-room,—the merry dance,—the midnight revel,—the party to Epsom races,—the card table,—the box at the opera,—the voices of singing men and singing women,—all these are at length distasteful things. To hear of hunting and shooting engagements gives him no pleasure. To be invited to feasts, and regattas, and fancy fairs, gives him no ease. He cannot hide from himself, that these are hollow, empty, powerless things. They jar upon the ear of his conscience. They are out of harmony with his condition. They cannot stop one gap in his heart, when the last enemy is coming in like a flood. They cannot make him calm in the prospect of meeting a holy God.

Books and newspapers cannot comfort a man when he draws near death. The most brilliant writings of Macaulay or Dickens will pall upon his ear. The most able article in the *Times* will fail to interest him. *Punch* and the *Illustrated News*, and the last new novel, will lie unopened and unheeded. Their time will be past. Their vocation will be gone. Whatever they may be in health, they are useless in the hour of death.

There is but one fountain of comfort for a man drawing near to his end, and that is the Bible. Chapters out of the Bible,—texts out of the Bible,—statements of truth taken out of the Bible,—books containing matter drawn from the Bible,—these are a man's only chance of comfort, when he comes to die. I do not at all say that the Bible will do good as a matter of course to a dying man, if he has not valued it before. I know, unhappily, too much of death-beds to say that. I do not say whether it is probable that he who has been unbelieving and neglectful of the Bible in life, will at once believe and get comfort from it in death. But I do say positively, that no dying man will ever get real comfort, except from the contents of the Word of God. All comfort from any other source is a house built upon sand.

I lay this down as a rule of universal application. I make no exception in favour of any class on earth. Kings and