

“without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy;” who bestowest both the hearing ear and the understanding heart, enable us to profitably receive the lesson, which we are thus taught; to reflect on the uncertainty of our continuance here; and consider the value of our precious souls, which shall live hereafter! Give us grace fervently to seek for the divine influence to “create in us new hearts and renew right spirits within us.”! grant unto us faith in the only Hope of sinners, that we may “inherit the promises,” and obtain “an entrance, ministered unto us abundantly, into the everlasting Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour JESUS CHRIST!”

Let me lead you from the contemplation of this general scene of affliction, which passed before you during this year, to meditate on that particular one, which your yet awakened hearts deplore. Let me conduct you from the numerous habitations of the departed, to that narrow spot which contains the remains of her, whom living we esteemed, for whom dead we mourn. Upon her the hand of the destroyer has seized in the prime of life and in the midst of usefulness, and hurried her, under circumstances peculiarly distressing, to the prison of the grave. How brief on mortal stage was her lot! how unexpected her removal to another world! How many now assembled, would, a few short days since, have regarded their departure at hand, long ere the period of hers drew nigh! Wonderful are the LORD’s dealings with the children of men—His judgments reach far beyond our conceptions—His ways are past finding out. The glow of health afforded no protection when the fatal shaft was aimed against her breast; the vigour of youth resisted not the assault of the last enemy. The prayers of the poor yielded no defence against the stroke of death; the affection of husband and relatives served not to secure her from the assailant. Heavily as this melancholy occurrence rests upon the minds of surviving