

they had then reached one hundred and thirty years. (Gen. XLVII. 9.)

But no fixed number of years is allotted to us on earth ; for as our life is short, so is it uncertain. We have a service to perform to our own generation, and when that service is accomplished, we must retire from the busy activities of life, and follow our fathers to the land of forgetfulness. Hence, the Scripture often represents the amount of human life by a term conveying the idea of a far shorter period than the word generation. It is often represented as a day—a day of service. Job, speaking of the shortness of human life, says : " Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass. Turn from him that he may rest, till he shall accomplish, as an hireling, his day." (Job XIV. 5, 6.) Our Saviour likewise speaks of the continuance of man's life on earth as a day, the termination of it as a night : " I must work the works of Him that sent me while it is day ; the night cometh, when no man can work." (John IX. 4.) To this there is also an allusion in the text, where David, after having served his generation during the day of his life, is said to have fallen on sleep at the night of death.

David was the King of Israel, the man after God's own heart, the inspired composer of hymns which have been sung in the Church from David's time to the present day, and yet even he, after he had served his own genera-