

thou cannot grieve that peaceful soul; that was once tormented and tried to the quick, thou canst no more break its peace, nor rob that humble conqueror of sweet tranquillity; the peace of earth might be interrupted by hellish arts, but not the peace of heaven; there the wicked cease from trouble, and there the weary are at rest; the sufferer has forgotten his sorrow and the endangered are forever safe.

Fourthly. Here Christians run the race that is set before them, but there the race is ended; here they are, as it were, in a battle field, having many enemies to contend with for life and immortality, but there are no fields of battle there; here they are tossed on stormy billows, but there they have pleasant harbours of eternal rest from all troubles or sorrows. In that better country they have no mournings, they shed no tears, they dread no danger, they feel no corruptions; instead of sin there is holiness; instead of danger there is safety: instead of weakness, strength; instead of painful partings, eternal unions; instead of sorrow and death, great joy and never ending life: they were with us, they are now with Christ; they were in the Church below, they are now in that above. What a change to many who were in daily employment with earthly minded men at daily toil to enter into the company of perfect spirits, and the blessed society of holy angels; the happiness of heaven will be great by the perfections and holiness of its blessed inhabitants and general assembly. "The Church of the first born is composed of the spirits of the just made perfect"; Heb. 12; 23. "The Lord Jesus will be glorified in His saints, and admired in all them that believe": 2 Thes. 1; 10. "He shall change their body, the body of their humiliation, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body": Phil. 3; 21. "As they have borne the image of the earth, they shall also bear the image of the heavenly": Chron. 15; 49. "It doth not yet appear what we shall be, but when he shall appear they shall be like him for they shall see him as he is": 1 John 3; 2. "He will present himself to the whole company of the redeemed as a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing, but holy and without blemish": Eph. 5; 27. "He will present them holy and unblamable, and unapproachable in His sight": Col. 1; 22. "He will present them faultless before the presence of His glory, with exceeding great joy": Jude 24. How great will be this scene of holiness and happiness, an