

countenance. Whether the condition of one's home be prosperous or adverse, joyous or cheerless, on nature's brow the same unsympathetic feeling is written ; from nature's voice no assuring whisper comes. Not least among the many things for which our truest gratitude should ascend to the God of heaven and earth, is the assurance that " Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life, that He is risen from the dead and become the first fruits of them that slept, that the dead who die in the Lord are blessed." Like the pole-star in the midnight gloom to which the storm-tossed mariner may always direct his anxious gaze, and ascertain whither his shattered barque is drifting ; so sorrowing friends may gather from the declarations made by Jesus and His Apostles, hope, encouragement regarding one beloved, revered, whose earthly life is ebbing fast away. Not inaptly has this sentiment been paraphrased :

" Take comfort, Christians, when your friends
In Jesus fall asleep ;
Their better being never ends ;
Why then dejected weep ?

" Why inconsolable, as those
To whom no hope is given ?
Death is the messenger of peace,
And calls the soul to heaven.

" As Jesus died, and rose again
Victorious o'er the dead ;
So His disciples rise, and reign
With their triumphant head."

It seemed necessary to say so much in order to elucidate the apostle's reasoning, and to call attention to the certainty of the resurrection from the dead.

But to advert to the melancholy fact which is fresh in the memory of all who hear me,—I mean the removal from time into eternity of that venerable man, who, for almost half a century, devoted his life and raised his prayers in behalf of