

well exclaim, *when compared with the vast, the amazing importance of the work that is to be done in them.* "I must work the works of Him that sent me," saith the blessed Jesus, "while it is day; the night cometh when no man can work."* And is there not to every man an appointed time; and to every season its proper work; is not man's business a preparation for Eternity; and is not the time short in which that preparation may be made? Alas! how little do men seem to estimate the importance of time by a reference to the bearing which everything now said or done shall have upon our eternal condition! The heir of large estates, or lordly rank, is educated with a view to the station he shall hold, and the wealth that shall be placed at his disposal: yet, how often does he who professes to believe himself a child of God and an heir of heaven live in utter disregard of the expectations thus implied! Nay, who could engage with any prospect of success in any of the varied businesses of life, without having served his time to acquire a knowledge of its elements, and applied himself diligently and painfully to the attainment of its mysteries? And yet, how often do men speak of sharing the employments of heaven, who look forward to the few troubled moments of a sick and dying bed,

* John ix. 4.