

grief—the sable garments—the tolling bell—the pall, and that which lies beneath it—should warn you that soon—you know not how soon—your friends shall follow you with heads bowed down, (Oh, let it not be with sorrow for your past career and fear for your future!) that your parents, husband, wife or children may, ere long, be draped in the black garments of woe. Oh! let them not be emblematic of the blackness or darkness which shall for ever be your fate—unless you repent and believe—that the bell may soon again give forth its solemn sound which you alone, of all the train, will not be able to hear. Oh! take heed lest you hear not either the shouts of joy in heaven over the one sinner that repenteth; that the pall may soon again be spread. Oh! take heed that the everlasting pall hide you not for ever from the presence of GOD; and that that beneath it will be your own body, not that which was the ~~temple of the~~ Holy Ghost, as we lovingly trust lies here before us now, but your body—sin-corrupted, crime-defiled, unfit to enter into the presence of GOD—because, unwashed in the blood of Him who is the resurrection and the life. Turn ye, turn ye, why will ye die. Repent you truly of your past sins, have a lively faith in Christ our Saviour, be in perfect charity with all men; so shall you be, as she was, meet partakers of those holy mysteries, appointed by Him who is the way, the truth, and the life; and His flesh becoming to you meat indeed, and His blood becoming to you drink in-

deed, you shall have perfect trust in Him for your future, and fear no more, and think no more, than did our departed sister of all the gloom of funeral garb, or tolling bell, or sable pall; and when you think of your own body, it will be with joyful hope that it will be resting from its labors, until, in a glorified state, it rise to join its companion soul in the resurrection of the just; or when you think of heads bowed down for your departure—it will be with a grief to your renewed mind that they should grieve: and imitating the benign thoughtfulness and love of our most merciful Saviour, you would from your bier, if you could, call to them “weep not,” “weep not for me.” “Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord.”

What encouragement is there for the faithful in our text?

They are blessed that die in the LORD!

They rest from their labours!

Their works do follow them!

And the faithful are they that die in the Lord. Those who are faithful in whatever is intrusted to them.

It does not need that you should be a faithful king to inherit a kingdom. The faithful king, Christ himself, has provided that for you. But he that is faithful over few things shall be ruler over many things. The faithful child, the faithful spouse, the faithful parent, the faithful servant, the faithful master or mistress, the faithful member of the flock, the faithful pastor—these are they that shall die in the LORD and be blessed.