

some distressing bereavement have you returned and inquired after God, but when the tear was dried upon the cheek, returned and inquired after the world! How often when sitting by the bed of a dying friend, have you remembered that God was your rock, and the high God your Redeemer; but when the friend was gone, remembered these things no more! Alas! You did but flatter Him with your mouth; your heart was not right with Him; therefore you have not been steadfast in His covenant; it was not true repentance you felt, therefore "your goodness has been like the morning cloud, and as the early dew which goeth away."

Such emotions may be excited also, upon the *approach of death, or in the moments of imminent danger*. The visitations of Providence may impress us when they affect our *property* or our *friends*; but when they touch our persons, their appeal is more forcible and irresistible—When they lay us upon the bed from whence we expect to pass to the Judgment Throne of God; when the hour is at hand, in which a heart searching Judge is to place our misdeeds before Him, and our secret sins in the light of His countenance, then the long list of laws broken, duties neglected, mercies slighted, passions unsubdued, and sins unmortified, appears in array before the guilty soul; then for a time, the heart relents, the soul trembles, the tear falls, and the holy resolution is formed, to live in future for God, and for God alone. But is the resolution kept if it should please God to restore us? Ah my Brethren! how many living examples are there at this moment, to prove that these impressions also, are often like the morning cloud, and the early dew! How obvious is it that they are frequently the result of a guilty fear alone, without any portion of love, that they come with the hour of danger, and depart when it is gone! How many of us,