

the strongest desire of his heart. Even though he may fear to die, he pants for that emancipation; and the more, as longer experience makes sin more hateful, and his own sinfulness more manifest and burdensome. It helps reconcile him to death. It is one of the strongest attractions of heaven that no sin will be there.

In like manner does the wickedness and wretchedness of this alienated world weigh more and more heavily upon the Christian's spirit, and make heaven's holiness and happiness seem doubly sweet. He sympathizes with the feelings of Cowper:—

“ My ear

Is pained, my heart is sick, with every day's report  
Of wrong and outrage with which earth is filled.  
There is no flesh in man's obdurate heart;  
It doth not feel for man.”

Gladly indeed would the Christian labor as long as God wills to bring man back to holiness and happiness; but how slight an impression do his efforts make, and the efforts of the whole Christian church, upon the mass of human wickedness! And how can he but feel a strong desire to reach that happy shore, and that glorious community, which sin has never polluted!

After all, the strongest ties that bind us to this world are friendship and natural affection. How many tender and fond associations cluster around the names of father and mother, wife and children, brother and sister, friend and companion! Point me to the man who has had all these tender relations sundered, and who stands on earth as an isolated being, and I will point you to one who has lost all sympathy with human kind, and would gladly depart from a desolate world. Now, mark the wisdom and benevolence of God in respect to this