

# AMERICAN CITIZEN.

"Let us have Faith that Right makes Might; and in that Faith let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it"—A. LINCOLN.

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## Interesting Narrative.

Some days ago we noticed the arrival here of Lieutenant Bartley, of the U. S. Signal Corps, one of the men who accompanied the brave and lamented Colonel Dahlgren in his famous raid around Richmond, and who was near him when he fell. Every man of this expedition was either killed or captured, and Lieutenant Bartley is the first officer who has been returned from confinement. He is now engaged in writing a narrative of the expedition, the first portion of which we give to-day:

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 29, 1864.

EDITORS GAZETTE: I propose to give you a few particulars of the expedition of Colonel Dahlgren to Richmond in February and March of this year. It is well known that all that party were either killed or captured; that Colonel Dahlgren was killed at the head of his command, and that his body was mutilated by a commissioned officer in the rebel army. Lieutenant Hart of the 7th Va. Cavalry cut off his finger to get a small gold ring, a gift of a sister at that time dead. But I will give the different items as they happened as near as I can. On Sunday, February 28th, 1864, a detachment made up from the 2d New York, 5th New York, 1st Vermont, 1st Maine and 5th Michigan regiments of cavalry, under command of Ulric Dahlgren, left the headquarters of the 3d cavalry division of the army of the Potomac, to proceed to Richmond and act in conjunction with a large force under General Kilpatrick against the city; the object of which was to liberate the Union prisoners confined in Libby prison, Castle Thunder and Belle Isle, and in the many other prisons in and about the city.

The route of Colonel Dahlgren's force consisted of about four hundred men, was to get into General Lee's lines at Elie's Ford, on the Rapidan river, flank Lee's army, strike the Virginia Central Railroad at Frederick Hall Station, and destroy a lot of Artillery at that place; cut the Railroad and telegraph wire, and then take the road to Goodland Court House, and strike the James river at Dovers Mills, where we were informed by the guide there was a ford that we could cross the James. Here our force was to be divided, one part to cross over and strike across the country to the Appomattox river, at that point where the Danville Railroad crosses, destroy the bridges and then strike for Richmond by way of the South-side. It was there we were to liberate our enlisted men confined on Belle Isle, secure the bridges and cross into the city. The other part of our force was to go down the north-side of the river, destroying all the mills and public property, also the Lynchburg and Richmond canal. At the same time General Kilpatrick, with a large force of cavalry and artillery was to attack the city on the Brook pike. It was thought by making three simultaneous attacks on the city in different places that we could not prevent some one from cutting through, and the success of one party would insure the success of the others and the accomplishment of our object, viz: the liberation of the prisoners.

Our party started from Gen. Kilpatrick's Headquarters, at 7 p. m., February 28th, and arrived at Elie's Ford about ten p. m.—There Lieut. H. A. D. Merritt, 5th New York cavalry, was sent over the Rapidan, with fifteen men to capture the picket post and reserve, which he did in a very handsome manner, capturing the entire post, thirteen men and one commissioned officer. The whole was done so quietly that there was no alarm raised along the enemy's lines. This made an opening sufficiently to let our column through and also General Kilpatrick who was following after. We then crossed and took the road to Chancellorsville and Spottsylvania Court House, and then turned to the right and took the road toward Frederic Hall Station. We came in sight of the station about 3 p. m., Monday 29th, but finding there had been a brigade of infantry sent to the station, the Colonel decided not to make an attack with what force he had, but to turn off to the left and cross the railroad south of that point. So after making a dash to a house about four hundred yards of one of their camps, we captured a Court Marshal in session, consisting of eight commissioned officers, Col. Jones, 1st Maryland Light Artillery, and two Major's among the number. This was also done by Lieut. Merritt, and without raising any alarm in the camps of the enemy.

We then took a circuitous route and crossed the Virginia Central Railroad about four miles south of the station, taking the road toward Goodland C. H. We traveled on through dense pine forests, the mud and rain where it was so pitch dark that you could not see the man at your side; but we kept on to about 3 p. m. Tuesday, when we were compelled

to come to a halt, as some of the men were getting lost in the dark. At the place where we halted we captured six wagons loaded with forage and rations for Lee's army, which we proceeded to use in a manner not agreeable to the owners, but our horses were not very hungry and our men also, and soldiers are not very particular as to former ownership, possession being nine points in law, and they used them accordingly. Here we rested till daylight, and then started again. After going about three miles we came in sight of the James River at Dovers Mills, on the farm of the rebel Secretary of War, Mr. Selden.

Thus far we had not met with any opposition, and were now where no Union troops had ever been, and the astonishment among the people, particularly that interesting portion known as "contrabands," was laughable. Here our force was to be divided and part cross the river. The Colonel accordingly made the disposition and assigned the different officers their troops and orders. Himself intending to go with the part that crossed the James River.

It was here that we found out we had been misinformed by the guide. Instead of a ford at that place it was deep enough to run a large steam ferry boat at the lowest stage of water. The guide was asked why he had misinformed us, but he either could not or would not give us any satisfaction. This made the Colonel carry out his part of the contract with him, which was that he was to hang him if he failed in one point to fulfill what he had promised. He had, by his deception, destroyed the whole design of this expedition, and we were a great way in the enemy's country, with the lives of the whole party in danger. The Colonel at once determined to take the whole force down the north-side of the James river and make an attack on the west side of the city. After disposing of the contraband guide the column started for the west side of the city, having burned the Dovers Mills, Star Mills, and blown up one lock on the Richmond and Lynchburg canal. All mills of every kind, and all steam engines, no matter for what used, were destroyed. We came in sight of the outer fortifications about three o'clock in the afternoon, and there halted to feed and rest, intending to make the attack just after dark.

Accordingly, just as night closed in, the advance was made quietly to within a few hundred yards of their outer rifle pits. They then opened a brisk fire of small arms on our line, which we did not return—but the charge was sounded, and the whole line, with drawn sabres, rushed on them and made them leave for a more healthy locality. This advantage was promptly followed up, Colonel Dahlgren and Major Cook leading the charge, our boys using their carbines, revolvers or sabres, just as the case demanded. The enemy were driven from one line to another, and from one fence to another, till they were driven back four miles and a half, to their inner line, where, receiving heavy reinforcements, they made a stand, and the Colonel, finding they had at least four to one, and not hearing any firing in the direction of Kilpatrick, nor seeing any signals, deemed it prudent to retire, which was done in good order, the enemy not venturing out to pursue. We lost some men killed and wounded, among the latter Lieut. Harris, Fifth Michigan Cavalry, shot through the shoulder.

We then took a circuit round the city, crossed the Fredericksburg Railroad at Hungary station, and thence to Brook pike, where Kilpatrick was supposed to be. I had been sent ahead with a small party to try and open communication with Gen. Kilpatrick, but I failed to accomplish the object intended, for after proceeding down the Brook pike to within three miles of the city, we captured a contraband coming out of the town. He told us Kilpatrick had turned off the road down the Peninsula, and that their forces were on the road in his rear. I then turned back and met Col. Dahlgren about seven miles from the city. When I gave the Colonel all the information I had gained he considered it the safest to take the road to Gloucester Point, as all the forces in King William and King and Queen counties would be likely to be after Kilpatrick. We accordingly started for Hanovertown ferry, where we arrived about 8 a. m., Wednesday, March 2d. There we had some trouble in crossing; but finally about 10 a. m., the whole party was over in safety. We then had to flank a large camp of the enemy, which caused us to lose about two hours, but we passed them in safety and took the road to Dabney's ferry, on the Mataponi river, where we arrived about 3 p. m. Here we had a slight skirmish, but crossed in safety and started in the direction of Stevensville, intending to go by way of King and Queen Court House.

About four p. m., we came on some of Captain Bagby's company of King and Queen county cavalry, near a church where they had assembled for drill. They formed on the road, but one charge scattered them that we could not see them; they hung on our rear, and killed one man; they losing two. We did not stop the column for them at all, but pushed on across the Anseanocock creek, when we halted to rest and get something to eat, it being now dark. After a halt of about an hour and a half, we again started, but had not gone over a half a mile, when the advance was halted in the road by the volleys of the enemy's cavalry. At this Colonel Dahlgren, Major Cooke and myself rode to the front to see what was the matter, when we were ordered to surrender. At this the Colonel presented his revolver and demanded a surrender of the party in the road. This they refused, when he attempted to fire, but his pistol missed—the cap exploding. Instantly almost, a volley from about three hundred carbines, shot guns, and squirrel rifles, was poured into our left flank from a distance of about twenty feet. Col. Dahlgren fell, five balls having passed through his head and body. This caused a momentary confusion, but Major Cooke, now the senior officer, ordered a charge on our right flank throw down, and rallied the men in the open field to await their coming out to attack us the second time; but it was soon evident that they would not attack us in open ground; but as they had five or six to our one, they could await daylight and pick us off one by one, as we passed along through the country.

A consultation was then held, and it was determined to break up the whole force, now reduced to about seventy-five men, and every one try to make his escape to Gen. Runtler's lines, on the Rappahannock river. Accordingly, the men were ordered to fasten their sabres in the ground, and tie their horses to them to keep them in line, and every one slip off as quietly as possible. We succeeded in getting through their lines, and walked till daylight, when we concealed ourselves in a pine thicket, to sleep and await the next night. Just at dark (March 3d) we started out again, taking a more easterly direction for the Rappahannock river; and after traveling through the woods for about three miles we came to a log-cabin, and making a careful reconnaissance of the place, concluded it would be safe to stop and get something to eat. Unfortunately a negro saw us enter the house, and went to his master, who lived close by, and told him; and he and some others came in on us and captured all our party taking us to his house, where we were kept till next morning. Then, after relieving Lieut. Merritt and myself of our watches, he turned us over to Capt. Magruder, who was to take us to Richmond.

We arrived at Richmond on Saturday, March 5th, at 7 1/2 p. m. As our treatment when we came to Libby was slightly different from that of others who have served in that interesting place. I will at an early day give it to the public, that they may know how to appreciate the high military and moral tone that prevails among the chivalry of the Cotton Slave Confederacy, on which our mutual friend Jeff Davis is the great.

I am, Very respectfully,  
LIEUT. R. BARTLEY,  
Signal Officer U. S. A.

## Special Income Tax.

At present scarcely anything is enlisting so much interest among the business community, as the Income Tax and the enforcement of the law. This interest promises many advantages to the country, and looks directly to a more diligent administration of the law, and an increased revenue. It is not too much to say that it has resulted principally from the publication of the tax lists in some of the principal cities of the country, whereby opportunities were afforded for a more perfect scrutiny of the operation of the law and the faithfulness of individuals in making their returns. Among the results of the discussion thus provoked and the facts elicited, is an important circular by Commissioner Lewis which sets forth and enforces in plain language the duty not only of officers connected with the administration of the law, but of every citizen. It is as follows:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF INTERNAL REVENUE,  
WASHINGTON, Jan. 9, 1865.

Complaints continue to be received at this office that many persons liable to income tax fail to make full returns. Those complaints have become so general that I deem it a duty I owe to the public service to call the attention of assessors to the subject, that they may exert the necessary diligence to remove, if possible the cause.

Any tax payer who renders untrue returns commits a triple offense: First, against the country which he defrauds; secondly, against his neighbor, whom he injures by casting upon him a larger share of the public burden than he ought to bear; and, thirdly, against the law which is violated both civilly and criminally and which demands for the act a doubling of the debt as a recompense, and punishment for the crime as a retribution.

Erroneous returns are due sometimes to ignorance, sometimes to carelessness and inadvertence, and sometimes, also, to a deliberate purpose to defraud the Government. When their correctness is suspected, assistant assessors ought not to hesitate to make the necessary inquiries, in order to ascertain the truth. Otherwise their duty is not performed.

Delicacy under such circumstances must be laid aside, and respect for wealth, influence, or social position must yield to the higher obligations of official responsibility. Honest men when properly interrogated will not in general refuse to afford satisfaction to government officers, and the dishonest should not be suffered to escape under pretense of sensitibilities too nice to endure a disreputable imputation without offense. A cheerful submission to a proceeding which a due execution of the law requires, is demanded in times like these equally by patriotism and good sense, and an appeal to those possessed of such qualities will seldom fail to produce the desired response. If any errors are believed to exist, it is not necessary to assume, in the first place, that they have been committed willfully; but, on the contrary, it may be well to advise the tax-payer to amend his return, and to accept it if he avails himself of the opportunity. If he refuses to do so, section 14th of the late act authorizes a mode of proceeding, which, if vigorously pursued, will evince the truth.

Tax-payers who are not cognizant of their responsibilities ought to be informed of them and those who are unable to make out their returns, ought to be kindly instructed and assisted by the assistant assessors; but willful and incorrigible offenders should be made to recognize the power of the law in the prompt and sure visitation of its penalties. Let assistant assessors understand that it is their business not merely to take returns, but to ascertain whether they are correct, and when they have reason to believe them incorrect, to act as already indicated. When an increased assessment is sworn down untruly, the case should be reported to the assessor, who should, when probable cause appears, institute an investigation, and make it searching and thorough.

A false return, even though accepted without alteration and the tax paid, had binding effect on the Government. When the fraud is discovered, the Assistant Assessors appointed is not sufficient to work the district, the fact should be communicated at once to this office.

The special income tax, if fairly assessed and collected, will produce more than \$35,000,000. It depends on the Assessors and their assistants, mainly whether the expectations of the department and the country, on the subject, shall be realized or disappointed.

Very respectfully,  
Jos. J. Lewis,  
Commissioner.

In the spirit of this circular between one and two hundred of the most wealthy citizens of Cincinnati have signed and published the following document:

WHEREAS, Much dissatisfaction exists in our city and vicinity on account of the apparent inequality of the returns of income tax; and

WHEREAS, It is the duty and interest of every good citizen, in the discharge of his conscientious obligations to himself and the Government, to bear a fair and equitable portion of the burthens of taxation.

With a view to accomplish this object, the undersigned hereby propose and bind themselves, each to the other, to make such exhibit of their income for the year 1863 as shall satisfy the majority of the undersigned of the correctness of their returns, and in case of any error, to correct the same.

And they further agree to present all returns that they believe to be insufficient to the Assessor of the District, and aid

him in the discharge of his duty.

We publish the above in the hope that it may be imitated in Pittsburgh. We feel confident that the officers charged with the duty of administering the law will be faithful; but they can be materially assisted by the co-operation pledged above.

## Never too Old to Learn.

Socrates, at an extreme age, learned to play on musical instruments.

Cato, at eighty years of age, thought proper to learn the Greek language.

Plutarch, when between seventy and eighty, commenced the study of Latin.

Boecaccio was thirty-five years of age when he commenced his studies in polite literature; yet he became one of the three great masters of the Tuscan dialect,—Dante and Petrarch being the other two.

Sir Henry Spelman neglected the science in his youth, but commenced the study of them when he was between fifty and sixty years of age. After this time he became a most learned antiquarian and lawyer.

Colbert, the famous French minister, at sixty years of age, returned to his Latin and law studies.

Ludovico, at the great age of one hundred and fifteen, wrote the memories of his own times. A singular exertion, noticed by Voltaire, who was himself one of the most remarkable instances of the progressing age in new studies.

Ogilby, the translator Homer and Virgil was unacquainted with Latin and Greek till he was past the age of fifty.

Franklin did not fully commence his philosophical pursuit till he had reached his fiftieth year.

Aceoso, a great lawyer, being asked why he began the study of law so late, answered that indeed he began it late, but he could therefore master it the sooner.

Dryden, in his sixty-eight year, commenced the translation of the Iliad; and his most pleasing productions were written in his old age.

## Highly Important.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.

The news from the South through all sources, public and private, shows the existence of great despondency and discontent. Jeff. Davis is heartily abused on all sides, and the misfortunes which have overtaken the Confederacy are attributed to him. The bitter feeling of Georgia and Alabama towards the Confederacy is evidently increasing.

A Plymouth, North Carolina, letter says, the ram Atbenmarie lies so that part of the casemate and bow are visible. It is estimated that it will cost \$20,000 to raise and refit her.

Deserters from the rebel army, who arrived at New Orleans, state that the rebel General Sterling Price died recently in Texas, of disease contracted during the late campaign in Missouri.

Hood's loss in the campaign against Nashville is estimated at twenty thousand men, twenty-one general officers and 62 guns.

A French paper says one of the rebel pirates at St. Nazaire is taking her guns on board and preparing for sea. It is thought the Minister of Marine will not allow her to leave port.

## From the Shenandoah.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.

The cavalry expedition of 500 men consisting of detachments of the 8th Illinois, under the command of Col. Clendenin, and the 13th and 16th N. Y., under Col. Gansevoort, which started from Prospect Hill, has returned having scouted through Fairfax and Loudon counties as far as Warrenton. They found no large bodies of rebels in arms, but brought in 52 horses and 11 prisoners. During Friday, Col. Clendenin with his command, dashed into Leesburg and captured a mail carrier with letters from men in Rosser's command of rebel cavalry, now stationed in the Shenandoah, to parties in Loudon county.— In this expedition the Union troops did not lose a man.

## Death of Hon. Robert E. Reed.

Mr. Kelley, Mr. Speaker, the melancholy duty devolves upon me of announcing to the House the death of my colleague, Dr. Reed, which occurred on the 14th of last month. The circumstances, as I understand them, are briefly these: Some members of his family being on a visit to a neighboring town, contracted varioloid. Most of the household were taken ill with it. He nursed and attended them almost day and night, completely exhausting himself, until at last he too was stricken down with the malady in its worst form. For four or five days the symptoms appeared favorable, and the belief was entertained by his physician that he would soon be convalescent. But on the morning of the 14th a great change was perceptible in the symptoms. The disease had receded, and although his physician applied every means known to medical science, he sunk rapidly, and died at ten o'clock that night.

The sad and unexpected event has caused the profoundest sorrow in the community where he lived and was much loved and indeed all over the western portion of the State, where he was widely known

and universally esteemed. The death of a good man is a public calamity. It creates a void in society difficult to be filled again. It comes home to our hearts with a thrill of sorrow, for we know how sadly we shall miss him. In every sphere of life and usefulness in which he has moved he will be missed, and in every relationship in which he has stood towards us. We meet no more the intelligent and courteous gentleman—the kind and accommodating neighbor—the generous, warm-hearted friend—the useful, trustworthy and public spirited fellow citizen—the benevolent and whole-souled philanthropist—and the earnest, sincere and steadfast Christian man and brother. All these characters united we have lost in him whose memory I desire to honor, and on whose bier, I would seek to throw a farewell chaplet of love.

He was the soul of courtesy and gentlemanly bearing. All who came within the sphere of his acquaintance were attracted to him by his staidness of manner and gentle, winning disposition. A frown never darkened his brow, nor a harsh word fell from his lips. Wherever you met him, and under whatever circumstances, he was always the same. Those present, who were members of the last House, will, I know, coincide in this statement.

Here, as well as at home, he was loved and esteemed—even by those with whom he differed politically. But it is unnecessary to enter into any detail of his noble qualities. His memory needs not a tribute from me, for it is one which will ever live in the hearts of all who knew him. His deeds speak for him, and they make up a record which shall long do honor to his name.

In every position of trust and distinction to which his fellow citizens saw fit to elevate him, he discharged his duties faithfully and zealously, and with scrupulous exactness. In the Congress of the United States, of which he was formerly a member, as well as here in this House—to which he was sent greatly against his own desire, and at much sacrifice of personal feeling—he was always found in the path of duty, laboring earnestly and faithfully for the public good, and never animated or swayed by a single selfish consideration. Throughout the whole of the tedious and laborious session of last winter—though suffering continually from ill health—he was constant and unremitting in his attention to duty, his seat in the House or place in the committee room seldom being vacant, and I have often known him to drag himself to his duties when scarcely able to walk from his room to the capitol. The same is true of him in every other sphere of duty in which he moved. To that which he found to do he directed all the energies of his mind, never swerving nor hesitating for a moment when his course of action was clear before him.

He was the friend of the poor and needy. His ear was ever open to the call of charity, and his hand ever ready to relieve the wants of the suffering. No trouble or distress was ever brought to his knowledge without eliciting his warm sympathy and generous aid. In the homes of the poor and destitute which his benefactions had often brightened, as well as in his own loved and happy home, of which he was the idol, he will be sadly missed.

He was the devoted and steadfast friend of every moral and benevolent movement. The cause of temperance early found in him a warm and ardent advocate, and he enforced its principles by his own example, at a time when it exposed him to much censure and ridicule. But a short time ago he expressed to me his pleasure in having lived to see the time when the doctrines he had so long taught and practiced, almost alone, had become the recognized law of the community where he lived. He was also for many years the zealous friend of the colonization enterprise, and labored arduously to promote the success of the scheme, giving freely his time, labor and means to the cause.— In this too he was blessed, inasmuch as he was permitted to witness the almost utter removal from the land of that evil which he strove so assiduously to eradicate. And though the violence and bloodshed which it has brought upon the country cost him suffering and bereavement, still, like a good and true patriot, he considered the cause worthy of the sacrifice.

An ardent lover of his country, he prescribed no limits to the obligations he owed her. His influence was constantly exerted in favor of the preservation of the integrity of the Government. The brave soldiers of the Union possessed in him a true friend. He visited the battle fields and devoted to them his professional services—often to the injury of his own health. He contributed of his means to ameliorate their condition. He allied himself warmly to the Christian commission and served as a delegate, and no soldier

of the Union, either in the field or at home, solicited his aid or influence in vain. His heart was in the work, and devoted to the cause of the country, and he esteemed no sacrifice too great that he could make. He adorned the Christian profession by a life of steady, unceasing usefulness and attention to the wants of humanity, and an earnest, sincere and conscientious rectitude in all his dealings and intercourse with his fellow men, as well as by a character for devout attachment to morality and religion which few have attained. The Sabbath School connected with the church to which he belonged was presided over by him for a quarter of a century, and there—as here and elsewhere—he will be missed.

But in one place above all others in the wide universe, he will be most sadly missed. In his home. That home, before so happy. The habitation of contentment and joy and love, and the strongest attraction of earth to him. When abroad, the place to which—of all others in the world—he yearned to turn his steps. I will remember with what gladness of heart he prepared to return thither at the close of the wearisome session last spring. I recall with what solicitude he looked forward to the time when, the trying ordeal of legislative duties past, he could settle down once more in the calm, quiet happiness of home, in the midst of his loved family-circle. Alas! there, indeed, the desolation of his absence will gather like a deep shadow of gloom. We miss his friendly face among us here. The interest of his locality and the State at large will miss his care and attention. Enterprises of benevolence—charitable associations and the poor and needy will miss his generous aid. The cause of the country, the church, and Sabbath School; his constituents, neighbors and friends will miss him. But oh! none of these will feel his loss nor miss him so much as the partner of his bosom and the children of his love. Theirs is the sorrow which endures. Others may forget him. The places he occupied in society may in time be filled again—but the places of husband and father must forever remain vacant.

And though they may feel and know that the loved one has made a happy exchange—that he has just gone from a life which, however blessed by love, and favored by fortune, has still much of care and sorrow to a state of existence where no sadness ever enters—still the reflection that here on earth they will never behold him again, is fraught with much bitterness and grief.

To them, his sorrowful brother and other afflicted relatives, the warmest sympathies of my heart go out, and my most fervent wishes that they may be sustained and soothed in their sore bereavement by Him who alone can "Speak peace to the troubled Soul," and in this expression I do not forget that all of you here, who knew the deceased, most heartily join.

My own share in this bereavement has cost me many a pang of heart, and much real sorrow. It is brought to my recollection, in all its first freshness, by the place and presence in which I now stand. I feel a deep sense of sadness and desolation here, even although the familiar faces of many acquaintances greet my eyes, My colleague and dear friend is gone. I see him no more in the seat he was wont to occupy. I miss the warm pressure of his hand and kind greeting when I come here in the morning; I miss his fatherly care and wise counsel; I miss the anxious interest and tender sympathy which he always bestowed upon me; I miss the example of his honest, straightforward, unselfish course; and oh! I miss—perhaps more than all—the incentive to lead a virtuous, upright life, and the influences for good which he always endeavored to throw around me. My loss is great indeed, for where can I find another to fill his place? On whom can I rely as I did upon him? Who, with the same noble heart and generous impulses, the same tender feeling and entire self-abnegation, shall ever become to me the same confident and friend? To him I went, as to a father, for all my griefs and troubles, and never failed to receive his warm interest and soothing sympathy.

These losses, Mr. Speaker, are the most bitter, and at the same time the most useful lessons that we learn in life. They are those which impress themselves most deeply upon our hearts. They come to us in the shape of admonitions which we cannot disregard. The friend of our soul is taken away suddenly in the midst of health and strength and hope. It is an arrow very near to our hearts. It is a voice of warning in our ears, saying, "Be ye also ready." We reflect too little upon the transitory nature of our lives, and the fact that death may come at any moment. The interests of the world—tearful cares, allurements or follies engross too much of our time and attention. We live as if we had a fixed lease of life, or