### FUNEREAL

ADDRESS DELIVERED AT THE OBSEQUIES OF MRS MARTHA J. POSTER, OF ALBANY, ON FEB. 23, 1881, BY REV. T. J. WILSON.

We are here to pay the last tribute of respect to our departed friend. The circumstances attending the death of the loved one we mourn were certainly very peculiar, and the announcement of the fact itself was calculated to shock the community, and particularly those standing in near relationship to the deceased. Since, however, we may not choose the manner of our decease, nor order its attending circumstances, may we not bid our hearts be still respecting the event itself and all matters connected with it, and, with full confidence in the wisdom and loving kindness of our heavenly Father, rest in the assurance that it is well ordered and wisely for all concerned?

Death in this instance was very sudden, and fairly startling in its unexpectedness. The summons came without the least previous notice, and illustrates most forcibly the declaration of our Lord, "Watch, therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh." In the enjoyment of usual health and of excellent spirits; without premonition or warning of its approach; without any of the ordinary circumstances attending the presence or indicating the purpose of the "King of Terrors," she literally fell asleep-"Asleep in Jesus," may we not readily believe, to awake in the light and glory of heaven and to be satisfied with the likess and in the immediate presence of her divine Savior? And what a striking lesson do we learn here of the absolute necessity of immediate and complete preparation for death and the judgment day. It furnishes a forcible commentary on another of the sayings of our Lord, "Be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh."

The messenger of death came to her while engaged in a ministry of mercy. Watching with he sick, and warding off, as best she could, the danger threatening her friend and relative, she furnishes in herself a shining mark for the quiver drawn with unerring aim. She is standing at her post, performing the duty of a sentinel, doing the work God had assigned her, when she is called by a voice, that disturbs not in the least the silence of the night nor startles in any way her own sensitive organization, to come up higher and rest from the care and toll of earth in the peace of heaven, in the love of God. Jesus, whose disciple she was, and in whose steps she was following, must needs be about his Father's business while he lived here in the world, "It was his meat and his drink to to the will of his Father and finish his work." His career was devoted to a ministry of love. You and I are reminded to-day that we are to be employed in service for the Master, doing good as we have opportunity, the rule being "diligent in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord."

Death found her away from her home and separated from her family, a part of whom were at home and a part among friends in a neighboring city, but all utterly unconscious of the black shadow following her so closely, and all equally inapprehensive of the blow so soon to strike, and which would dash to the ground so many chertahed hopes. She went out on the evening of her death of her own accord, and to a task of her own choosing. The place and work were of her own selection, and were in entire keeping with Christian conduct; and here it was that death found her. And is it not well? Could human wisdom have planned it better? In your recollection of other friends who have gone to the "unseen city," are there any-or, at any rate, are there manywho have crossed over where the circumstances, taken all in all, were so favorable?

Death, then, may find us anywhere and in any service, doing good or doing evil. Happy are they who, pure in heart and upright in life, are found where they ought to be, doing such work as God calls them to, though widely separated

from those they love best. The great lesson of all,

then, is that we should always live in readiness for death.

"Brethren, the time is short"-time in comparison with eternity, over whose border we must soon pass-and particularly the time of our natural life. It is as "a dream when one alooketh." "It is as a shadow which continueth not." "It is the flight of a bird, the passage of the weaver's shuttle," In consideration of this fact, "it re maineth," saith the Apostle, "that both they who have wives be as though they had none; and they who weep as though they wept not; and they who rejoice as though they rejoiced not; and they who buy as though they possessed not; and they who use this world as not abusing it. For the fashion of this world passeth away."

Even the most intimate and endeared of earthly relationships the sacred union of husband and wife should be entered into and continued under an ever abiding sense of the liability of its speedy dissolution. The same consideration should moderate our grief as well as our joy. Our friends die and are removed from our sight. The objects of fond endearment are taken away to return no more. And we weep for them, and Nature herself bids us weep; but we should not yield ourto be overcome of it; neither should we give way to excess of joy in the more favorable conditions

Full as may be our cup to-day, to-morrow may see it emptied of all it contains. This, too, should Mrs. S. C. Waldrin

assist us in putting a proper estimate on all earthly possessions, and should dispose us to hold and use them as the stewards of God, and who are responsible to Him for an early settlement; and the reason assigned for all this-for thus viewing life and conducting ourselves in the various circumstances of it—is, "For the fashion of this world passeth away." Like the shifting scene of the drama which is put on the stage to pass quickly from it and be succeeded by another, so with the drama of human life. It is brief in duration, its form is an illusion, and it is subject in its very nature to sudden and opposite vicissitudes. We should pass through it with all its relationships, however intimate, and its griefs and joys, however heartfelt and real, and with all its interests, however nearly affecting our welfare, in complete subordination to our God and the higher and better interests of heaven and the eternal world.

" Eternity! Eternity! How long art thou, Eternity! A ring whose orbit still extends And, ne'er beginning, never ends; 'Always' thy center, King immense, And 'Never' thy circumference; Mark well, oh man, Eternity !"

All that is here left us of our late and dearly beloved friend is the mortal body. We have still the clay tenement, but its occupant is gone. The casket is still here, but the jewel has been taken to adorn a crown, to dazzle and blaze in undimmed luster forever. Husband, children, sisters, brothers, friends of her who is gone, I commend to you the God she worshipped, the Savior whom she trusted and endeavored to follow, and the religion of Jesus which was the solace of her heart; and in this presence, before God, and on the verge of the open grave, I adjure you to receive Jesus into your hearts, and to consecrate your lives to His service. Bring all your trouble to Him in entire confidence and submission, and be assured of His warmest sympathy and most tender regard. In all your affliction He is himself afflicted. He is not one who cannot be touched with a feeling of our infirmities, but was in all points tried like as we are, yet without sin. Come to Him with your sorrow, and He will comfort you with the blessings of divine grace.

#### A WOMAN INSPECTOR.

[From the Western Gazette, an English paper.]

An exceptional woman received a well-won appointment the other day in New York, when Mrs. Annie E. Wilson was made inspectress of the New York Custom House. Born in the Bay of Bengal, and reared on shipboard, she married a Boston captain when 14 years of age. For seven years, this child of the ocean continued to sail the seas by her husband's side without accident; but in 1872 their vessel was struck by a storm on the banks of Newfoundland. The captain, her husband, had his shoulder blade broken by the fall of a mast, and the first mate and a part of the crew were also disabled. The second mate gave way to panic. No sooner, however, had the captain been carried down, lashed on a door, to the cabin, than his wife, then a woman of one-and-twenty, hurried on deck. "Boys," she said, "our lives are in danger. Let us stick together, and all of us work with a will. I will take my husband's place, and take you to some port." They set to work, Picture Frames, cleared off the wreckage, manned the pumps, and succeeded in weathering the gale. After it subsided they rigged up a jury mast, put the ship before the wind, and went to St. Thomas, which they reached in 21 days. After repairs, the indomitable woman, finding her husband was still helpless, navigated the ship to Liverpool, making the voyage without accident in 30 days. Her husband was never able to resume work, and for seven years she kept him and her child by working as a clerk in a dry goods store. Eight months ago her husband died. This month Secretary Sherman appointed Mrs. Wilson, who is not yet 30, to an inspectorship of the New York Custom House.

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