

course of ³ Sabbath - school
study! Blessed be God for every
device which ever reminds us of
our solemn accountability, in
all life, to our Maker & Preserver!

There are times in many a
life, when the ~~dread~~ thoughts of
God, & of accountability to Him, fill
~~the~~ the soul with dread. It
is not merely that superstitious shud-
dering which vexes one upon
thought of the unseen & impenetra-
ble world above; but a well-defined,
reasonable fear of future misery, in
consequence of conscious offense
against a just & binding law. Do
you recognize the feeling as I speak
of it! The man who, ~~has~~ sailing

4

upon the upper Niagara, sud-
denly becomes conscious that he has
suffered his vessel to drift with the
current too long: - the clerk who,
having secretly defrauded or robbed
his employer, suddenly becomes
aware that he has not altogether
covered up the tracks of his vil-
lany; - these men are not the
victims of superstition, but of the most
rational judgment, when a terrible
alarm seizes them, & almost stops
the pulsation of their hearts. Some-
times so, the sinner aft. a more
spiritual law suddenly recognizes his
peril. He has neglected, or he
has dishonored, the generous of-

5

fers of God's love. He has known that God could be found in the acts of Xⁿ. worship, but he has chosen nevertheless to give his attention to other matters. He has cared more for "the laughter of fools" than for that peace of conscience which accompanies the forsaking & rebuking of sin. And then on a day, when distressed in business, or the enforced leisure of sickness, or some the evident approach of death, by a sudden irresistible impulse opens his mind to the recognition of the deity he has been offering to God; — he shudders, & trembles — not at the thought of

6
mere imagination ⁶ unseen myster-
ies, like a child in the dark —
but at his own rational con-
sciousness of his offended &
entraged God! Ah! wretched,
wretch! shall he flee? The forger
may flee to Europe, the murderer
may bury himself in the Eyp-
tan desert; but the sinners when
can he go & be safe!

Has such an hour ever troubled
you, hearer! Perhaps, though, it may
yet: it were well to be ready agt.
it. God is angry with the wicked
every day; will you think that
you have no wickedness, that
fear shall never ~~seize on you?~~
drive you to seek for this text!