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close in with the offers of mercy:
the Lord loves an early sacrifice:
he declares "I love them that love
me and they that seek me early
shall find me".

His mind was much weaned
from the fading enjoyments of this
world & drawn to "seek first the
Kingdom of God and the righteous-
ness thereof" which concern was
increasingly manifested in his
latter years. The travail of his
soul which he frequently expres-
sed was that he might so live
as to be prepared to die. That
this was his happy experience
seems to have been shown by the
calmness and serenity of his mind
throughout his latter afflictions
and in the immediate prospect
of death.

Being reduced very low during
a severe illness a few years
before his decease and under

the impression that he would not²⁰⁵
recover he remarked "I consider it
a great favour while the body is
labouring under disease that the
mind is easy - perfectly easy: nothing
in the way". Soon after "I desire
the Almighty may furnish me with
patience to hold out to the end".
To a near relation he said "I often
feel desirous for thee that thou
mayst not get along in too easy
and unconcerned a way. It is ^{an} easy
matter to make a plain appearance
attend meetings &c: all this is right
and proper in its place, but I desire
that thou mayst not content thy-
self short of coming to an experient
al knowledge of the truth. What
signifies all the world to peace
of mind at such a time as this.
I would not give for all the world
the peace of mind I now feel: it
is unexpressible. I feel desirous that
thou mayst not mingle in pol-
itics - if thou dost I believe it
will tend to poverty"