

YOUTH'S INSTRUCTOR.

"KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS AND LIVE: AND MY LAW AS THE APPLE OF THINE EYE."—PROV. VII, 2.

VOL. II.

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No. 1.

RULES FOR THE YOUNG.

DEAR children, while you sojourn here,

Be these three rules your guide;
Your great Creator love and fear,
And nothing fear beside.

Do unto others as you would
That they should do to you:
For evil, rendering only good;
For railing, blessings too.

No action do, how'er conceal'd,
Which you would blush to own;
Remembering all shall stand reveal'd
Before the judgment throne.

Thus pure and bless'd your lives shall prove,
And through eternity,
A God of holiness and love,
Your great reward shall be.

Influence of Worldly Reading.

BY HARRIET N. STEVENS.

I wish to speak freely to my young friends on this subject through the INSTRUCTOR; and I am particularly desirous to do so, because I know from my own experience that it is of no trifling consequence. While we live in such a solemn hour, just when the last echo of mercy is dying away, and Satan is especially busy in every possible way to draw the mind from God, and prevent us from securing the salvation of our souls, how carefully we ought to watch lest he should in some way get an advantage, and lead us astray, even before we are aware of it. Feeling grateful for the mercy that has opened my eyes to one of the fatal snares that had been laid for my feet, I am anxious, as far as in my power, to caution my young brothers and sisters, lest they be overtaken in a similar fault. It is in regard to reading such books as may indeed charm and captivate the mind, but which do not tend to make us more spiritual, or better prepared to endure the trials, and overcome the temptations that we meet with from day to day. A little sketch of my own experience on this point, will best express what I would say.

I had naturally a fondness for reading of almost any kind, but especially for romance. And anything in the form of a story, seemed perfectly irresistible. But for some years after I gave my heart to God, the only reading I allowed myself, was the Bible and strictly religious books. In the christian experience of

such eminently holy persons as Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher, I greatly delighted, and never read them without more earnestly desiring to be, as they were, conformed to the image of Christ, and a fuller determination to overcome, as they overcame. But as time passed on, and I began to leave my first love, I gradually grew less and less strict, and indulged my natural taste for reading more freely. Poetry, I regarded as a gift so divine, that I was fully at liberty to read whatever I met with in that dress. But in this I erred; for the highest and noblest gifts may be perverted to a bad use. And then, I reasoned, their could possibly be no harm in reading some of the beautifully written tales that appear in Magazines, &c., especially as many professing christians were engaged in their publication, and some, in whose piety and superior judgment I had great confidence, encouraged such reading in their families. At first I trembled lest it was wrong; but at length persuaded myself that it was not only right, but really necessary for the improvement of the mind. I determined, however, that my first business should be to serve God, that I would on no account neglect my Bible, and would be very careful that such reading did not engross too much of my attention. But I soon found that in this respect, my power of self-denial was gone, and many, many precious hours were wasted, that should have been spent in storing my mind with the treasures of heavenly wisdom.

But what was its effect upon my spiritual life? Nothing indeed was farther from my mind than the idea of giving up any part of the truth, or of joining with the world again. But where was that sweet communion with God that I once enjoyed in my closet, and my love for his holy Bible? Alas! it had been neglected, or if I read it daily, its sweetness was gone, and I tremble to think how often I knelt before the Lord with my mind so excited from unprofitable reading, that I hardly realized what I was doing. Where was that trembling conscientiousness that made me so carefully question my conduct, lest some of my ways should be displeasing to God? Then, though I had many evil things to overcome, there was something within, that was continually stirring me up to a holy life; but now, that too, was gone, and though deeply sensible of the change, and constantly mourning over it, I was yet unwilling to

admit that the change in my reading habits had much to do with it. I believed I could enjoy religion and still indulge in these things, and many were the resolutions that I formed to be more watchful, more earnest and faithful in secret prayer, and to live nearer to God; but all appeared fruitless and vain. If at times I experienced any measure of the blessing of God, it seemed to vanish like the morning cloud, and the early dew. Indeed, what effort can restore greenness to the leaf, while the worm is suffered to remain at the root? But the Lord was long-suffering, and at length, through his abounding mercy, I was led to see the snare of Satan into which I had fallen; and it became the language of my heart—

"The dearest idol I have known,
 What'er that idol be;
 Help me to tear it from thy throne,
 And worship only thee."

I then resolved that, by the grace of God, I would no longer indulge a taste and inclination so destructive to vital godliness. That my reading should be selected with reference to the glory of God and the best interest of my soul. I would in this manner waste no more of the golden moments that were still left me to prepare for heaven; but would bear in mind that I must give an account of them all to God, and that I was not at liberty to please myself, but should please Him who purchased me with his own blood.

Though this resolution may be severely tried, and the power of temptation is strong, I rely upon the promise of the Lord for strength to overcome. Thus far it is easier than I anticipated, for I taste once more the preciousness of a Saviour's love. Again he meets me in the closet, and it seems easy to part with all beside. But never again can I rest without the assurance of my acceptance with him. How good and how merciful God has been, my tongue can never express. But at times I can realize and feel it, in some degree at least; and the thought of grieving him again is more sad than the thought of death. O, I do love him, and I long to love him more.

The evil effects of such reading as is here referred to, are many; but one in particular I noticed upon myself. Men and women of the world, without one particle of the spirit of true religion are made to appear as real christians, and represented as far less human than divine; and as we read, they become in our minds, models of excellence, and worthy of all imitation, and we look no higher. Thus the standard of piety is lowered to the very dust, and ere we are aware of it we become just like the world. We may think we can read without being influenced by it, but it is not so. We shun our former associates, because we fear the influence of their worldly spirit; but worldly books are no less

dangerous companions, and should be as carefully avoided.

Perhaps some of my young friends may find in this little sketch, a record of their own experience, though I hope not many. Yet we are exposed to similar temptations, and may be overtaken in the same snare; so that the fall of one should admonish the others, and we may each, perhaps, expose some device of the enemy, and in this way be helpers to each other. I rejoice that, though we have such an artful and mighty foe to contend with, our God is wiser and stronger than he, and has promised to deliver us if we trust in him. Jesus has overcome, and we too may overcome, and with him inherit all things.

My dear young brothers and sisters, let us look heaven-ward. Glory, glory unspeakable is there, and it may all be our own. Let us never for one moment think it hard to part with the pleasures and enjoyments of this vain, perishing world; but rather rejoice that we are permitted in any degree to deny ourselves for the sake of the friendship of Jesus, and have respect unto the recompense of reward. It is only when we lose sight of the glorious things that God has prepared for those who love him, that this world possesses any attractions for us. I feel like leaving it all behind, and pressing forward to grasp the everlasting prize. We leave nothing that will be of any value to us in the "day for which all other days were made." Let us remember this, and employ our time in such a way as will appear to our advantage then. Let us make the Bible our heart's best treasure, and our book of study, and its sacred truths will sanctify us, its precious promises be our joy even in the midst of grief, and its holy precepts guide us safely through to our Father's kingdom.

Paris, Me., Dec. 5th, 1853.

A Kiss for a Blow.

THE following is a beautiful incident illustrating the happy effects of a kiss for a blow. How pleasant it would be, to always see children thus return love for anger.

One day a minister went into an infant school in Boston. He had been there before, and told the children they might ask him any question they pleased, whenever he came to see them. Please to tell us, said a little boy, what is meant by overcoming evil with good. The minister began to explain it, when a little circumstance occurred, which gave him a striking illustration.

A boy about seven years old was sitting beside his little sister, who was only six years old. As the minister was talking, George, for that was the boy's name, got angry with his sister about something, and doubled up his fist and struck her on her head. The little girl was just going to strike back, when the teacher seeing it, said, my dear Mary, you had better kiss your brother. See how angry and unhappy he looks.

Mary looked at her brother. He looked sullen and wretched. Her resentment was soon gone, and love for her brother returned to her heart. She threw both her arms about his neck, and kissed him. The poor boy was wholly unprepared for such a kind return for his blow. He could not stand before the generous affection of his sister. His feelings were touched, and he burst out crying. His gentle sister took the corner of her apron and wiped away his tears, and sought to comfort him by saying, with endearing sweetness and generous affection, Don't cry, George, you did not hurt me much. But he only wept the more. No wonder, it was enough to make any body weep. But why did George weep? Poor little fellow, would he have wept if his sister had struck him as he had her? Not he; but by kissing him as she did, she made him feel more acutely, than if she had beaten him black and blue. Here was a kiss for a blow—love for anger, and all the school saw at once what was meant by overcoming evil with good.—*The Student.*

Idle Words.

JESUS says, "But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." Matt. xii. 36.

These, dear children, are the words of the blessed Saviour when he was here upon the earth. He was never known to speak an idle word; never did he indulge in a spirit of levity; but was a man of sorrow, and acquainted with grief. He often wept over lost and fallen man, and bore our sins. View him in the garden of Gethsemane, while he poured forth his soul in agony, until he sweat great drops of blood, and then reflect, this suffering was all for us. Yes, dear children, for you, that you might have eternal life.

Did you ever think of this? and realize that if you would be his disciple, you must walk even as he walked? Christ is our pattern, he left an example for us, that we should follow in his steps; and it is said of him, he did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth. Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously.

Are you ever tempted when you are insulted or abused, to retaliate, or even to be angry? O think of the blessed Saviour extended upon the cross, suffering all the malice that an enraged multitude could inflict, and hear his prayer "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do." O what pure, what boundless love? Would you dwell forever with this lovely Saviour? Would you forever enjoy his smiles, and with apostles, prophets and saints of all ages, live eternally upon the New Earth, where sin and all its effects are forever done away? O then give your hearts to the Saviour, and follow him in all things. Have your conversation in heaven, and your hearts there. Die daily to the world, to sin, and to self, and live alone for the glory of God. Jesus says, "I will come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." Your sincere friend,

SARAH M. SWAN.

THEY THAT BELIEVE.

Have Christ in their hearts,
Heaven in their eye,
And the world under their feet.
God's Spirit is their guide;
God's fear is their guard;
God's people are their companions;
God's promises are their cordials;
Holiness is their way, and
HEAVEN IS THEIR HOME.

A Foolish Choice.

A YOUNG man named Lot traveled about with his uncle Abraham: In those days they used to go from place to place, to find pasture and water for their cattle. As each of them had many servants, and the servants could not agree, it was thought better that they should live apart. Abraham kindly gave Lot his choice to go which way he pleased. So Lot looked about, and chose a fine country, where he thought he should become rich, and went there without inquiring what sort of people dwelt there.

This was a sad mistake, for, as the Bible says, "A little that a righteous man hath, is better than the riches of many wicked;" and, "Evil company corrupts good manners." We had better have less riches, and dwell among those who fear God, and set a good example, than get riches and go in the way of wickedness. Lot found it so.

The people among whom he dwelt were so very wicked, that at last God sent fire from heaven to destroy the whole city; and Lot himself, and all his family, would have perished, but that God in mercy sent an angel to warn them, and bring them out. Indeed, some of his family did perish, for they had got so connected with the wicked people in the city, that they would not mind their father when he called them to come out; so they died with the rest, and all the wealth that Lot had so much desired, was entirely destroyed.

Children should remember this when they go to seek a place. Do not go among the wicked for the sake of worldly gain. It will surely come to poverty and misery in the end.

A Wise Choice.

SOLOMON was the son of King David. His father had taken care to teach him what was good from his childhood. When David was dead, Solomon became king, and he was concerned to know how he should act, and govern the people in the fear of God.

The Lord, who saw the desires of Solomon's heart, gave him leave to mention what was his chief wish, and it should be granted. Instead of asking, as most young people would have done, for riches, or honor, or pleasure, he asked for a wise and understanding heart, that he might know how to perform his duty.

The request was so pleasing in the sight of God, that he granted Solomon all that he asked, so that he had more wisdom than any man before or since; besides which, God added to him that which he had not asked for, riches, and honor, and length of days.

And God has been pleased to promise, that if we seek first his kingdom and righteousness, all other good things shall be added to us.

YOUTH'S INSTRUCTOR.

ROCHESTER, JANUARY, 1854.

To Our Young Readers.

DEAR children, it is with the greatest pleasure that we again send you the INSTRUCTOR. After so long delay, you will hail it with some joy at least. I hope that none of you have lost your interest in this little sheet.

When I commenced its publication, more than a year ago, I then intended to write a Sabbath-school Lesson for every Sabbath in the year. But this I could not do. I have traveled much the past year, and when at home, the *Advent Review* and the publication of books, have occupied my time so that I have had to rob my sleeping hours to write for the INSTRUCTOR. It would be a pleasurable task to prepare weekly Lessons for you; but I am sorry to say that I cannot, by reason of other duties that take all my time. I hope some brother or sister who loves to teach children, and who ardently loves their salvation, will come forward and prepare Lessons for you. They can have room in your little paper. There are many who have excelled as school-teachers, who have time for much study, reflection and prayer, who can prepare Lessons much better than I can with all my cares.

MISS ANNA WHITE (my sister) will now take the principal charge of the INSTRUCTOR, and will be able to devote considerable time to its interest. I shall try to write some for every number. It will still be filled with the choicest religious instruction, adapted to the wants of the young. It will be kept free from the trash which too often finds its way into papers of this kind. It will be devoted to religious instruction. If it is necessary that the young should read stories about cats, dogs, &c., &c., let them read them in the multitude of books and papers devoted to these things; but such trash should not be admitted into the children's religious paper and crowd out right instruction. Good religious instruction is of the highest importance, especially at this solemn period.

Those who have written for the INSTRUCTOR, are invited to continue to write. Let those who have not written, also write. Articles are wanted that will fill from one to four pages of letter paper. It is ardently desired that good, short, sweet articles may be sent in every month by ten, fifteen or more of the brethren and sisters who feel the importance of the youth being guided in the path of Bible holiness. Write free and spirited. Some writers are so precise, and try so hard to fix up their communications very nice, that they are stiff and spiritless.

The receipts for the last volume paid all the expenses of printing, and no more, leaving nothing for the Editor's services. But the sale of the

bound volume is doing much to pay him for his labor. He makes not the least complaint. He has been happy to send you the INSTRUCTOR, and the promptness on your part has been commendable. Will those who have not paid for the second volume, send in the small sum required, at their earliest convenience. You may send postage stamps, (either paper or letter,) or the silver closely done up in a letter.

We invite all our young readers to obtain subscribers. We hope the list will be greatly increased. Let all communications, and business matters for the INSTRUCTOR be in a letter by itself, or on a sheet by itself, headed, FOR the INSTRUCTOR.

HAPPY NEW YEAR.

BY ANNA WHITE.

THIS is the time for kind wishes and friendly greetings. Who does not desire that every one may have a happy New Year?

This is not an unmeaning wish, though by some lightly spoken, since all are in the pursuit of happiness. Many seek happiness in gold and silver; some in the applause of the world, others in its vain pleasures. But though the riches, honors, or pleasures of the world be obtained, the soul remains unsatisfied. The wisest man that ever lived, found these ways of procuring happiness to be false. He gathered silver and gold, and the peculiar treasure of kings more than all that were before him; but he testifies that the accumulation of riches is vanity. His wisdom and wealth secured him great honor, so that his fame went abroad to distant countries; yet, he says for this a man is envied of his neighbor. Then he said to his heart, "go to now, I will prove thee with mirth; therefore enjoy pleasure." Whatsoever his eyes desired he kept not from them, he withheld not his heart from any joy; yet he found by experience, and records it for our instruction, that all earthly pleasure is vanity.

Many young people seek to be happy by gratifying an inclination to be gayly or finely dressed. But decorating the body only excites the admiration of those who like themselves are vainly expecting to find happiness in outward show. Others plunge deeply into worldly amusements, but they leave an emptiness of feeling, and a want of something better, which is often acknowledged by the sincere. These sources from which most hope to derive happiness, not only prove illusive, but they lead the soul down to sorrow and darkness. Says Solomon, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof, are the ways of death."

Yet, my young friends, we may be happy. There is a light to guide us in our pursuit of happiness; not false and uncertain, but true and con-

stant, and the more we heed its radiant beams, the stronger it will shine upon our pathway. This light is the Bible. "Thy word," says David, "is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Those that keep the precepts of that word shall find pure and permanent happiness. "Great peace have they that love thy law, and nothing shall offend them." "Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart." Blessedness and peace are promised to those who hearken unto the commandments of the Lord, to do them. And if we delight ourselves in the law of the Lord while we live, it will prove our passport into the city of God at last. "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." So while those who seek for happiness in the perishable things of this world, find it not, but incur the Divine displeasure for refusing to seek it where it can alone be found; those who seek God and obey his commandments shall have pleasures ever new and glorious.

Young friends, do you desire true riches and honor? Love God and seek him early; for "riches and honor are with him; yea, durable riches and righteousness." Would you have happiness without alloy? Seek that holy joy which the favor of God imparts, and which the thoughts of an approaching judgment cannot dampen. O seek for a fitness to dwell with the holy angels, who do the will of God, above, "hearkening unto the voice of his word."

Many of you, I trust, are in possession of this happiness of divine origin. To you I would say, be faithful to Him who hath chosen you out of the world to be heirs of his grace. O fear to sin against God, who has done so much for you. Seek his assistance every day by prayer, to live aright, and the blessed promises of the Bible are secured to you through our Saviour.

My dear young friends, who are not in the possession of the Christian's hope, would you have a happy New Year? Forsake your vain delights. Leave off your sins, be sorry for them, and pray that God will take them all away for Jesus' sake. Love, honor and obey your parents, and be kind and courteous to all. Follow the teachings of the Saviour which he gave while here upon the earth. You will then feel that God is your Heavenly Father, that Jesus is your compassionate High Priest, and very best friend. Your days being filled up with kind acts and holy duties, will pass sweetly away, and when you lie down to rest, holy angels will hover around your pillow, to guard you while you sleep. Then your peace will be like a river, and the righteousness thereof like the waves of the sea, and you will have indeed, a Happy New Year.

EXHORTATION TO THE YOUNG.

BY ELLEN G. WHITE.

DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS:—How are you spending your precious moments? Are you filling up the hours of probation, that God has allotted you here, in studying his Word, to learn how you can best show yourselves approved unto him? Or is your mind, which should be turned to serve the Lord perfectly, and keep his commandments, occupied by reading exciting stories and idle tales? Are not the golden moments which God has given you to prepare for heaven, misspent and abused, while you are filling your mind with worthless stories, which will not tend to make you holy and pure like your Saviour; but serve to corrupt your mind and fill it with pride, vanity and selfishness.

Dear Friends, has not the word of God been slighted, and the truth neglected, and by some of you even made light of? Think seriously upon the course you are pursuing, while living a life of vanity and folly, and grieving that Saviour who died that you might live.

How can you rest, knowing that Jesus does not smile upon you? that you have no tender look of compassion from him, because you reject offered mercy, and sin against him every hour?

There is danger of your slighting him too long. Your time is taken up with the vanities of the world, and you seldom retain thoughts that you have a soul to save or lose. Have you forgotten that there is one who was wounded for your transgressions and bruised for your iniquities? One who is now pleading with his Father, and presenting his wounded hands and feet, and pierced side and spilt blood, and pleads with him to spare you a little longer; for he hung upon the cross to redeem you. O, what love! what unbounded love! what condescension the Son of God manifested for us. He died to give life to those who were his enemies!

Mercy's sweet call is now sounding; but it will soon die away. Probation's hour will soon be ended. The seven last plagues will fall, and then those who have chosen the pleasures of the world and rebelled against God, will cry for mercy when there will be none to answer their prayers. But a voice will be heard,—“Thou art weighed in the balance and found wanting.” And as they realize that they have no shelter from the dreadful storm of God's wrath, they will plead for one little hour of probation that they may again hear the sweet voice, inviting “every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters.” It will then fall upon the ear, in that dreadful hour, “Too late! too late!” “Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded. But ye have set at naught all my counsel, and would none of my reproof. I also will laugh at your calamity, I will mock when your fear cometh.”

Dear young friends, your case is not now hopeless. Jesus so loved you that he died for your sins, and requires of you in return for so great a sacrifice, to love him. He is ever ready to listen to your prayers, and accept the offering of a broken heart and contrite spirit, and receive you into his fold.

Your companions may scorn you, but what if they do? Remember they are weak mortals like yourself, and death can lay them low in a few moments. O, do not resist the sweet Spirit of God, for such company. They cannot save you when the wrath of God shall come upon all the wicked.

If you leave the ways of sinners, and choose the narrow path that leads to heaven, it may convince your young companions of their folly and the danger they are in without a Saviour. They may at first laugh at you, but be patient. Meekly refer them to the word of God. Tell them, by making it your study, you are convinced it will judge you in the last day. That it is the foundation upon which you have built your hopes for heaven, and by searching its pages with a prayerful heart, you have ascertained how you could obtain durable riches. Live out your profession, meekly follow the lovely Pattern; and by a well ordered life you may be the means of winning them to Christ.

As Jesus was about to leave his sorrowing disciples, and ascend to his Father, he comforted them with the assurance, that in his Father's house were many mansions, and he would go and prepare a place for them, and come again and take them to himself, that where he is, there they may be. Do you want a home with Jesus? a mansion in glory? Will you be an humble child of God, that you may have a share at last in the saints' immortal inheritance?

If you love God and keep his commandments, when Jesus takes his faithful children home, he will give you a crown that will never dim; and you may freely eat of the immortal fruit of the tree of life, and of its healing leaves, and never more know sickness or sorrow; but your happiness will be complete, as you sing redemption's song.

Rochester, Dec. 16th, 1853.

The Child's Last Prayer.

A PIOUS little boy, who attended the Sabbath-school, a few hours before his death broke out into singing, and sung so loud as to cause his mother to inquire what he was doing. "I am singing my sister's favorite hymn, mother." "But why, my dear, so loud?" "Why," said he, with peculiar emphasis, "because I am so happy." Just before his death, with uplifted hands, he exclaimed, "Father! Father! take me, Father." His father went to lift him up, when, with a smile, he said, "I did not call you, father; but I was calling to my heavenly Father.

THE DESIRE.

I think, when I read that sweet story of old,
When Jesus was here among men,
How he called little children as lambs to his fold,
I should like to have been with them then.

I wish that his hands had been placed on my head,
That his arms had been thrown around me;
That I might have seen his kind look, when he said,
Let the little ones come unto me.

Yet still to his foot-stool, in prayer I may go,
And ask for a share in his love;
And if I thus earnestly seek him below,
I shall see him, and hear him above.

In that beautiful place he has gone to prepare,
For all who are washed and forgiven,
And many dear children will be gather there;
For of such is the kingdom of heaven.

Exhortation to Obedience.

BY MARCIA S. AVERY.

DEAR CHILDREN:—I have read with interest your valuable *Instructor*, and I think it is a Gem well filled with instruction for you, and every way calculated to lead your tender minds upward to that God who created you, who keeps you alive from day to day, who kindly provides for all your wants, and whose tender care is ever over you.

Dear children, ought you not to love and adore this Heavenly Friend, and thank him for all that you enjoy? Or if in his providence he should afflict you, by removing from your society a parent, a brother, a sister, or a friend, should you then repine? O no. If thus afflicted, look upward still, and trust in him; for he careth for you. He will ever hear the cries of his children. When cast down, troubled or perplexed, flee to him for refuge, and he will shield you from the coming storm.

As you have kind friends that are so interested in your welfare, as to prepare this little sheet for your express benefit, strive, I entreat you, to profit by what you read, and try to live in that way, that when the Saviour comes he will own you for his lambs, and be your shelter in the day of trouble. Do not fear to confess to your young companions that you love Jesus, and that he is soon coming to gather to himself those that love him.

Keep all the commandments of God. Keep holy his sanctified day that has so long been disregarded and trampled under foot by sinful man. If you love the Lord you will be willing to obey his law. When I see a child obedient to all his parents' requirements, I know that child loves his father and mother. Just the same with regard to God's commandments. Those that obey his holy law show to the world that they love and honor him. And are you blessed with parents? honor and obey them cheerfully; for this is the first commandment with promise, and your duty as children. That

kind father, that has toiled so many weary hours, and cheerfully endured the scorching rays of a Summer's sun, that you might be clothed and fed, who returns to his home at night, worn by fatigue, and weary, yet meeting you with smiles and endearing words, is he not worthy of your honor? And that affectionate loving mother that has watched over you in your infancy, and when sick, through the lingering hours of night, has, with untiring patience watched by your side till the morning light, is she, too, not entitled to the love and esteem of her children? Although you may have many dear friends, and those that love you, there is no other earthly friend that has a parent's affection for you. O be kind to them, children, ever be obedient and you will not lose your reward.

I once had a kind and affectionate father. I thought too, that I loved him tenderly and always obeyed him. But death came and deprived me of his tender care, and then I saw what a kind protector I had lost. I then realized as I had never before the worth of such a father, and I then wept that I had not been more obedient to all his wishes. Then, when I saw the cold hand of death laid heavy upon him, then would I have given the world, were it mine, could he have been restored to me again. It seemed as though my heart must break as he, weeping, gave us the parting hand, and embraced us for the last time, saying, with his dying breath, "O, be kind to your mother." Those parting words I shall never forget: and though years have since gone by, and he sleeps in his lonely far-off grave, yet he lives in the memory of his child, and while I live, his last request shall be remembered, and I will be kind to my mother.

When I saw him laid in his gloomy bed, I did not know that he was soon to rise victorious over the grave, although I believed him to be in heaven, as one of the angels, happy and free from sorrow, yet I mourned that he was gone. I wished him back. I had not learned then, as I since have, to look to the resurrection morning for the consummation of my hope; for now I know that according to the Scriptures, my father yet sleeps, and I feel bound to believe, as they teach, that "if the dead rise not, then they that are fallen asleep in Christ are perished." But we are taught that this glorious event will surely take place; and then when the "last loud trump" shall call forth millions that now sleep in the dust, my father will then, I trust, with many dear friends that have died in faith, come forth clothed with immortality. This is a glorious, a blessed hope. O who would rob that bright morn of its glory? Yes, dear children, that will be a joyful morning. If we are true to our God, we shall then meet those for whom we have long mourned, and our sorrow will then be

turned into joy. O try to be faithful, and lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven; for the Lord of glory will soon be revealed. He will soon come in the glory of his Father, and all that look for him, and love his appearing, will enter the Golden City, and receive an inheritance in the New Earth.

Locke, Mich.

Importance of Early Piety.

BY A. S. HUTCHINS.

"I LOVE them that love me, and those that seek me early shall find me." Prov. viii, 17. A very precious promise is here made to such as seek the favor of the Lord in youth. They "shall find me." To "seek" the Lord, in a proper and acceptable manner, is to come before him deeply feeling a "godly sorrow" for all our sins, and with fervent prayer for a forgiveness of the same. In so doing we cannot fail to secure the smiles of our heavenly Parent, and the peace and consolation which flows to the heart of those whose sins are all forgiven. "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." Jer. xxix, 13. "Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace; thereby good shall come unto thee." Job xxii, 21. Many reasons might be given why we should seek the Lord early, but we have space to notice only a few of them.

First, we should early seek the Lord because impressions formed upon the mind of the young are deep and lasting. Upon the sandy beach may be traced impressions distinct, and multiform, which are obliterated by the next rolling wave.—But with those formed upon the youthful mind, it is not so. They are written there as with a diamond point, and have very much to do in shaping the character and destiny of the man. Hence it may well be said:

"'Tis education forms the common mind;
Just as the twig is bent the tree's inclined."

Says Solomon, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Again we urge the necessity of early piety, from the consideration that delays are exceedingly dangerous. This fact is plainly taught in the word of God. "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them." Eccl. xii, 1. "The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him." If the enemy of all righteousness, that "walketh about, seeking whom he may devour," is suffered to lead the mind away from God, until the heart is corrupted with the vanities and follies of youth, the desires of such an one to become a child of God, will be greatly weak-

ened. O then, dear young friends, hasten to acquaint yourselves with the Saviour, and keep all of the commandments of God. Then shall "thy peace be as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea." Joy and gladness will fill the soul, and the glorious prospect of the future, will assuage the many fiery trials of life.

But a still stronger reason presents itself, why we should seek the Lord in the morning of life.—It is the shortness of time. Though Satan may flatter you that you are to live long upon the earth, and see many good days, and then have time to make your peace with God, believe it not. The evidences that the end of all things is at hand, justify us in the conclusion that we are living upon the last crumbling sands of time.

The message of the third angel, [Rev. xiv, 9-12] which is now being proclaimed, presents an opportunity for the salvation of all, who will keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.—This is the last message of mercy to mankind.—When its warning notes shall have died away, then farewell to hope for the poor sinner. Mercy for him has gone forever. Then will it be said, "He which is filthy, let him be filthy still; and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still."

Dear reader, "seek ye the Lord while he may be found. Call ye upon him while he is near." "The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth."

Catlin, N. Y., Dec. 1853.

WHERE TO PLACE CONFIDENCE.

Trust in a prince—his word shall fail;
In friends—and they shall die;
In health, and wealth, and world's regard—
Alas! how soon they fly!

Trust thine own heart—'tis faithless all;
Thy life—'tis insecure:
But he who trusteth in the Lord
Forever shall endure.

Turn the Bible into Prayer.

THE Rev. Mr. M'Cheyne, in writing to a youthful parishioner, used the following language: "You read your Bible regularly, of course; but do try and understand it, and still more, to *feel* it. Read more parts than one at a time. For example, if you are reading Genesis, read a psalm also; or, if you are reading Matthew, read a small bit of an epistle also. *Turn the Bible into prayer.* Thus, if you are reading the first psalm, spread the Bible on the chair before you, and kneel and pray, 'O Lord, give me the blessedness of the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly.' 'Let me not stand in the way of sinners.' 'Let me not sit in the seat of the scornful,' &c. This is the best way of learning the meaning of the Bible, and of learning to pray."

SABBATH-DAY VISITORS.

I LOVE my friends, and none can love them more,
Yet would not wish to see them at my door
On Sabbath-day, that day of holy rest,
By God first hallowed, sanctified and blest.

None then, however dear I wish to see
Step in between a holy God and me,
To stop my ardor in the heavenly race,
Or steal a holy hour of prayer or praise.

Six days in seven, come, young friends, and chat—
Walk o'er the fields, and talk of this or that—
Attend to business, plan, and buy and sell,
All this is proper, fitting, right and well;
But I cannot, upon the Sabbath-day,
Give up my time to earthly company.

SABBATH-Schools should not be given up because Lessons are not given in the INSTRUCTOR. Let Teachers select portions of Scripture for the children to commit to memory, or Scriptural subjects suited to their age and advantages, and ask questions and make remarks bearing on the subject. Pray with the children, and enter into their condition, and labor untiringly for their conversion. We hope to be able soon to prepare a Hymn Book and Question Book for Sabbath-schools.

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