

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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HYMN.

LET thy Spirit, Lord descending,
Rest upon each youthful heart;
May thy grace this work attending,
Heavenly life and love impart.

Let thy presence go before us,
Through this wilderness of sin.
Spread thy sheltering pinions o'er us,
Light the lamp of truth within.

O thou good and gracious Father,
Write on us thy saving name!
O thou gentle Shepherd, gather
With thine arm each little lamb!

Feed us in thy verdant meadows,
Lead us by thy quiet streams,
Till beyond this vale of shadows,
Heaven's unclouded glory beams.

The Pilgrim Encouraged to Press On.

THE earlier we enter the narrow way, the easier and the safer will be our journey.

Setting out for heaven is not always with one what it is with another. One sets out willingly, and with as determined a resolution as Joshua felt when he said to assembled Israel, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Another sets out humbly, and hesitatingly, not daring so much as to lift up his eyes to heaven while he puts up his first prayer, "God be merciful to me a sinner!" A third is constrained by his very necessities to set out, for he sees that no other course is open to him; his liberty is changed into bondage, and the honey in which he delighted is turned into wormwood and gall. It is in the very extremity of his distress that he comes to the resolution, "I will arise and go to my Father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son." Whether humbly or confidently, whether willingly or through necessity, it is still a mercy to be moved to set out for heaven.

It is a lovely sight to see the fresh green blades of grass shooting out of the ground, and beautiful is the bud of spring, unfolding its colored petals ere it bursts into a flower; but more lovely, and much more beautiful, it is to witness a youthful pilgrim setting out for heaven. The tender conscience, the walking and musing alone, the humble, but anxious inquiry about holy things, the love of God's house, the clinging to God's holy Word, and the peaceful enjoyment of the Sabbath on the part of a child, are things that

make tears of joy run down the cheeks of a loving mother, and subdue the strong heart of a Christian father, humbling and cheering him when the door of his closet is shut, that he may pour out his soul in thanksgiving to God that his watchings, his weepings, and his prayers for his beloved one have not been in vain.

How is it with you, my young friend? Have you set out willingly, or hesitatingly, or of necessity; or, indeed, have you set out at all? If not, the path you are treading is a perilous one; the ground is not safe beneath your feet. The beginning of a day, or a week, or a month, or a year, is an excellent time to set out for heaven, and still more so, if the day, or week, or month, or year past has been marked with especial mercies. Has the pestilence that has blighted others with its withering wings passed you by? and are you standing while others are fallen? Set out then on your pilgrimage in the tearful thankfulness of your heart, while yet your soul is magnifying the Lord, and your spirit rejoicing in God your Saviour.

Your pious parents, and your Christian friends are all saying to you:—

"Lift up thy heart to God on high,
Begin thy pilgrimage."—*Selected.*

A Beautiful City.

In this world there is continual sorrow and suffering; and even children are not exempted from it. This world, however, is the place where we are to live but a very short time. God has given us a few days, or years to live here; and in his holy Word has told us of a beautiful city to which we shall go when we leave this world, provided we live a holy life and obey his commandments. Have you ever thought about this beautiful city which God has prepared for holy children? Suppose your father should promise you that if you would obey and love him, that when you grew older he would carry you to a country where you should have every thing which would contribute to your pleasure and happiness—would you not be very anxious to do every thing in your power, to love and obey so kind a friend?

The apostle John, who was the beloved friend of our Saviour when he was on earth, was once in the isle of Patmos, and there he had a revelation made to him, of many wonderful things; and among them an angel showed him the great

and holy city which God has provided as the future dwelling-place of all holy beings.

This beautiful city is surrounded by a wall great and high, built of precious stones, having twelve gates made of pearls, three on each side of the city, and at each gate an angel is stationed. Its street is represented as pure gold as clear as transparent glass. There is no night there; but the city is filled with the glory of God; the light is dazzling bright, so bright that the light of the sun and moon which illuminates our dark earth is not needed: for the glory of God lightens it, and Christ is the light thereof.

Into this blessed city where God dwells, "There shall in no wise enter any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie." No sinner can dwell there—no one that loves not God can be found there. Will you not, dear children, think about Heaven, and seek to love and serve God, that you may go to this blessed place and dwell forever with God? You all desire to be happy, and you know (though you may be very small children) that you are not always happy here: but in Heaven there is perfect happiness, and those who have begun to walk in the narrow way that leads to Heaven, are even here joyful in the hope of complete happiness hereafter.—*Christian Witness.*

Elijah taken Up into Heaven.

"It came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven." 2 Kings ii, 11.

KING Ahab died, and was succeeded by his son Ahaziah, who followed in the footsteps of his father, and of his mother Jezebel. But he did not live long, for, after having reigned two years, he fell out of a window; and, being in danger of death, sent to enquire of Baal-zebub the god of Ekron whether he should recover of his disease. God was angry that a king of Israel should have recourse to false gods, and sent Elijah to meet Ahaziah's messengers, and order them to ask him if there were no God in Israel, that he must needs send to the god of Ekron. They were also to tell the king that he should not recover from his sickness.

Ahaziah, when he knew that it was Elijah who had sent this message, dispatched a captain with fifty men to take him. The prophet caused fire to descend from heaven upon this captain and all his people, and consume them. A second captain and another fifty men met with the same fate; and the third that was sent, fearing to be burned as the two first were, addressed Elijah with so much humility, that he went with him to the king, and predicted the latter's death, which happened soon afterwards.

This was the last act of the prophet's life that

was performed in public, and God shortly called him to himself. Elisha, who had become a follower of Elijah, forewarned that his master was about to leave him, still determined to remain with him as long as possible. Elijah tried three times to separate himself from him, but the faithful servant could not be prevailed upon to quit him. At length, having well proved his fidelity, he told him to ask what he would and it should be granted him. Elisha asked for a double portion of the prophet's spirit. Though Elijah found this difficult to accord him, he promised it, provided Elisha saw him at his departure.

"As they still went on, a chariot and horses of fire, parted them asunder, and Elijah went up into heaven," leaving behind him his mantle, which was taken by Elisha.—*Scripture History.*

Little Jean.

IN a circle of brothers and sisters, who lived in a large stone house near a mountain pass in Switzerland, let us look at the youngest. His name is Jean; (John;) he has a bright face, and his very looks seem to be asking questions. It is not among his playmates or his books that he is most interesting; but when he goes away by himself into the forests, as he often loves to go, then he seems very thoughtful, as if his little mind was deeply impressed with great and serious subjects.

As he looks round, he feels there is something mightier than the mountain, and higher than the sky, and more spreading than the branches of the forests; and he asks himself, "Is this God, all around me? the same God who rained fire on wicked Sodom, who took care of Joseph in Egypt, who talked with Moses in the mount?" The boy is tenderly alive to these stories of the displeasure and the goodness of God. He treasures them up in his mind, he thinks of them in the woods, and he says, "I will mind this great God." He does not want to forget God. He prays God not to forget him, a little boy.

One day there was a disagreement among the brothers, in which Jean was to blame. At bedtime when his nurse undressed him, she said that God was angry with naughty children; he would punish them, nor suffer any such to go to heaven. Jean went to bed, but the nurse's words sunk deep into his heart. "I am a wicked boy," he said to himself, "and how do I know but God may call me to an account this night?" A burden lay upon him. He tossed about upon his pillow. The thought of displeasing God grieved him, and he could find no rest. Then he got up, and falling upon his knees, he penitently confessed his sins, and begged to be forgiven. "I think God did hear me that night," he said, long afterwards, "for I began to feel a little of that peace which I have since known so much of."

Let all little children take courage from this. If you have done wrong, and feel the dark, cold, heavy weight of sin, making you afraid of God, of your parents, afraid even of yourself, remember what little Jean did. He was only seven years old then. He did not try to forget it, to sleep it away, to comfort himself that to-morrow or next day all would be well. You may indeed forget your sins, but God will not. Jean believed this, and it led him to carry his burden before God, to beg for favor and forgiveness, for Christ's sake, who takes our burdens for us. Did God regard the prayer of little Jean? O yes; for he who hears even the young ravens when they cry, will graciously listen to the humblest prayer of the little child. He gave peace to Jean; then the boy slept, for he was no more afraid of God; penitence and prayer had cast out fear.

This little boy afterwards became an eminent minister of the gospel. He was the Rev. John W. Fletcher of Madely.—*Child's Paper.*

The Orphan's best Treasure.

Two little boys, decently clothed, the oldest appearing about thirteen and the younger eleven, called at the lodging-house for vagrants in Warrington, for a night's lodging; the keeper of the house very properly took them to the vagrant's office to be examined, and if proper objects, to be relieved. It appears, that but a few weeks had elapsed since these poor little wanderers had resided with their parents in London. The typhus-fever, however, in one day carried off both father and mother, leaving the orphans in a wide world, without home and without friends. Immediately after the last tribute had been paid to their parent's memory, having an uncle in Liverpool, they resolved, poor and destitute as they were, to go and throw themselves upon his protection. Tired, therefore, and faint, they arrived at Warrington on their way. Two bundles contained their little all. In the younger boy's pocket was found, neatly covered and carefully preserved, a Bible. The keeper of the lodging-house addressing the little boy, said, "You have neither money nor meat, will you sell me this Bible? I will give you five shillings for it." "No," exclaimed he, the tears rolling down his cheeks; "I'll starve first." To try him still further, six shillings were offered for the Bible. "No," said he; "for it has been my support all the way from London. Hungry and weary, often have I sat down by the wayside to read my Bible, and have found refreshment from it."

He then asked, "What will you do when you get to Liverpool, should your uncle refuse to take you in?" The reply may excite a blush in many young Christians: "My Bible tells me," said he, "when my father and mother for-

sake me, then the Lord will take me up." The next morning these refreshed little wanderers rose early, dressed themselves, and set out for Liverpool.—*Selected.*

Children, Come to Jesus.

PERHAPS some of you have often said, If the Saviour was now on earth, we would go and like Mary, bathe his feet with our tears; like John, we would recline upon his bosom; like Zaccheus, we would climb the tree to see him pass; like Bartimeus, we would cry aloud for mercy; like the woman of Samaria, we would ask for living waters; like the Centurion, we would beseech him only to speak a word; like the Syrophenician woman, we would beg for the crumbs that fell from the table; like the children, we would crowd around him, that he might bless us; like the sister of Lazarus, we would sit at his feet for instruction; like Peter, we would exclaim, "Lord save me;" like the blind, the deaf, and the dumb, like the demoniac, the leper, and the afflicted, we would press to him, that we might but touch the hem of his garment; or like the dying penitent, we would cry, "Lord remember me."

But, children, you need not go to Jerusalem—you need not wander up and down inquiring, "Saw ye Him whom my soul loveth?" for behold, Jesus of Nazareth passeth this way. Come then, and flock around him, and tell him what you want. Come by faith, confessing and forsaking your sins, and he will bless you. Come in prayer, for his ear is ever open to your cry, and his arm is ever stretched out to relieve you. None of you are too poor, nor are any too rich; none are too ignorant, nor any too wise; and none are too young, for he has said, "of such is the kingdom of heaven."—*Child's Paper.*

Don't Wait to Do some Great thing.

WHEN the kiltle captive maid had directed Naaman, the Syrian general, to the prophet of God, Naaman was asked, "If the prophet bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it?" So thousands, ever since, seem ready to do good, provided they can accomplish some wonderful act; and because they have not the means or the opportunity to do so, they live and die without being a blessing to any one. Children, you should remember that life is made up of little duties, little pleasures, little kindnesses, little comforts, little joys;

"We little know how light a thing
May dry the tears of woe;
The pittance small, the one kind word,
With which we all can part,
May take the sting from pity,
Or save the broken heart."

Don't wait then, but whenever you can relieve want or distress, whenever you can cheer and comfort the sorrowful, do so at once; nev-

er leave it for others, never think it beneath your attention. If you learn to act thus while young, you will not have lived in vain, but many will rise up and call you blessed.—*Child's Paper.*

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EDITED BY MISS ANNA WHITE.

ROCHESTER, JULY, 1854.

THE INSTRUCTOR.

To make this little sheet interesting to its readers, it should be filled chiefly with original pieces, written by those who believe in the immediate coming of the Lord, and who feel the importance of being ready for that great event. Those who have contributed so freely to its columns will doubtless receive their reward. We ask them still to remember the wants of the paper, and favor us with their pieces monthly. We also solicit those to write who have never written.

Young friends, your time and talents should be devoted to the service of God. How can you do more good than by speaking words of encouragement to those of like precious faith? Or, perhaps you can point out some hidden danger which besets the path of the young traveler to Mount Zion, and thus be the means of saving a soul from death. Let us hear from you. Write boldly, freely; for our King cometh; he cometh to redeem his people.

SABBATH EVENING.

Who that loves the peaceful hours of the holy Sabbath, can but welcome with delight the return of Sabbath evening? Six days of toil and fatigue have just passed. Agreeably, not only to the commandment, but to the example of God, who in six days "made heaven and earth, the sea and all that in them is," they have been spent in labor, arranging our temporal matters, preparatory to the Sabbath of the Lord. With the example of the Creator himself, before us, for resting upon the seventh day, we are now prepared to say to all worldly cares, "abide here" till I have enjoyed the rest of the holy Sabbath. Having done thus, how sweet to retire from all the busy scenes of a world of strife and confusion, and in the humble attitude of prayer to our heavenly Parent, fervently plead for wisdom to direct in the sacred duties of this holy day, that his name may

be honored and we strengthened and refreshed in its observance.

To all who thus welcome the Sabbath evening, the Sabbath will be a delight, and not a long tiresome day, passing slowly and heavily away. But with hearts flowing with lively gratitude to Him who "blessed the seventh day and sanctified it," we can say,

"Come bless the Lord, whose love assigns
So sweet a rest to wearied minds;
A blessed antepast is given,
On this day more than all the seven."

While many observe the first day of the week as a day of rest and call it the Sabbath, without one text of scripture between the lids of the Bible for so doing, we have the example of God, and all the Bible on our side, in defense of keeping holy the seventh day. "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." How very important that we should endeavor to obey this command! Though we do not expect to inherit eternal life by obedience to this alone, yet we believe it is necessary to keep this commandment in connection with all the rest, if we would be saved.

If we love the Sabbath, we shall strive to have our thoughts, our words and our actions all right at its commencement, and labor to keep them so through the whole day. As the Sabbath commences with the evening, [see Gen. i,] how necessary to improve the Sabbath evening in a manner best calculated to prepare our hearts for the services of the day! In some places where a number of young friends could come together, they have met in prayer meetings at the commencement of the Sabbath. This doubtless has resulted in good: especially, if parents and older friends have done their duty to the young when together on such occasions.

We are rapidly passing down the stream of time. And if we do not wisely improve the few golden moments left us, we shall soon bitterly mourn and lament, "and say, how have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof; and have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me!" Let not then these moments pass unimproved. But strive to keep all the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

A. S. HUTCHINS.

"A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit."

ABIDE IN CHRIST.

"AND now, little children, abide in him; that when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming." 1 John ii, 28. These are the inspired words of him who is known as the "beloved disciple," and who was the bosom friend and follower of our Saviour during his mission to seek and save those who were lost.

Let us consider the character of the one who records the words of instruction before us. He was a humble man, who gained his livelihood by the dangerous occupation of a fisherman. Accustomed to hardships, he was well prepared to undergo the privations which he afterwards endured, and through which in a greater or less degree, every child of Jesus must pass; and it was while engaged in this humble calling that Jesus made him to be a fisher of men, a companion in his ministry, a witness of his sufferings: thus proving that God chooses the humble to confound the mighty; because the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. Thus far we have a fair representation of one of the many whom Jesus chose to reveal to his people the will of God concerning them in the "last days."

The Apostle says: "little children abide in him." This necessarily implies a previous knowledge of the Saviour. That we have given our hearts to him, and fully obeyed the command, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth," and united ourselves to the interests of our coming Lord, and entered the narrow way which alone leads to happiness and eternal glory.

But what is it to abide in Christ? Much excellent reasoning of man might be brought to the test, but we choose to let the Word of God answer the question. Jesus says, "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love." John xv, 10. This passage shows beyond a doubt what it is to abide in Jesus; that we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming. Now some teach that the ten commandments which the Father gave are abolished, done away; and we are to keep in their stead the commandments of Christ. But, little children, let no man deceive you; be assured the Bible teaches

no such doctrine. The very passage before us proves it to be a false assertion without any foundation. Jesus kept his Father's commandments, and we are to keep the same. God is not the author of confusion, which must be the case if the Saviour was keeping the Sabbath of the Lord, (his Father,) and at the same time instructing his followers to keep Sunday! Again, fifty years from the death of our Lord, the time the opposer says the law was abolished, we hear the author of the text saying, [1 John v, 3,] "this is the love of God that we keep his commandments;" and in the last chapter of the Bible, 14th verse, the same writer testifies, "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:" just the place where every reader of this paper wants to be.

Finally, from the last clause of the text we are led to conclude that it applies to a period of time called the "last days;" which is none other than the time in which we live. This fact is so plain that even a child may understand it, and prepare for the time of trouble, the seven last plagues, and the glorious appearing of our Lord.

In the last days perilous times shall come. There will be wars and rumors of wars. Satan will perform such adroit deceptions, that his work will be mistaken for that of the Lord. It is to be a time when children will be noted for disobedience to parents.

Young friends, are not these predictions daily receiving their fulfillment? and should not the knowledge of this fact prompt us to double our zeal in the cause of God? O let us abide in Jesus and keep the commandments of God. The glorious prize is at the end of the race.

Rochester, N. Y.

G. W. AMADON.

Obedience.

I WANT to say a few words to the children about obedience. God commands children to honor their father and mother. This means that they obey their parents. Now children do you obey your parents? One little girl told me she did not obey her parents. She was very honest in owning it, but she did not know that it was wicked. I asked another little girl how God regarded those children who did not obey their parents. "O," said she, "God is angry with the wicked every day." Children should realize that God sees them all the time; and

since he has noticed them enough to give them a command, he will notice them enough to see whether they obey. Children should realize that their parents are older and wiser than themselves, and that they would not command them to do wrong. It is safe for children to obey their parents, and right and proper because God has commanded it.

Now, my dear children, obey God and your parents; then God will love you, your parents will love you, and indeed every body will love you. Think of these things, and profit by this advice, and may the Lord bless you and prepare you for his Kingdom which is very soon to come.

B. S.

Nelson, N. H.

COMMUNICATIONS.

From Phebe M. Lamson.

DEAR CHILDREN:—I am glad there is a paper published for you, to stir up your youthful minds to the important things that are written in the holy prophets, concerning the desolation of the earth, and the coming of the Lord Jesus, in the clouds, with power and great glory. It will be a great and solemn event. Every eye will behold it. No one can flee and hide from it. The earth will shake terribly and the dead awake to life. As the lightning cometh out of the east and shineth even unto the west, so shall it be. The destiny of all people will be sealed. No more opportunity then to repent of sins and forsake them, and obtain pardon of God and a hope in his mercy. It will be said, "He that is filthy, let him be filthy still; and he that is holy let him be holy still."

Now while Jesus is a merciful and faithful High Priest, ministering for us in the heavenly Sanctuary, we can get ready. His precious blood will atone for our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us take heed to ourselves by examining our hearts daily, to see that no evil is lurking there. Let us study the Word of God to know his will concerning us, and compare our words and actions with the example of Jesus. We hear him saying, "I am the light of the world, he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

The great day of the Lord is near, it is near and hasteth greatly. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness." Do we realize it? and are we seeking a preparation by purifying ourselves by obeying the truth? Those who have set at nought the counsel of God and would heed none of his reproof, will be destroyed from his presence and from the glory of his power. While those who have loved God and kept his commandments, will enter in through the gates of that beauti-

ful city and have a right to the tree of life, which bears twelve kinds of fruit and yields it every month.

This is a dark world, full of trouble. Death, sorrow and care are every where upon its broad domain. Sin entered the garden of Eden with our first parents, and has spread all over the earth, marring the beauty of the creation of God, putting a blight upon every thing, filling the air with cries and sighs of distress. I feel thankful that it is not always to remain so. Jesus has purchased the possession with his life, and will soon redeem it. The curse will be removed. All things will be made new. Our vile bodies will be made like Jesus' glorious body, never more to suffer pain or sickness. God will wipe away tears from off all faces, and there will be no more death. The tabernacle of God will be with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them. They will rejoice in his presence without any fears, for it is an everlasting kingdom.

Dear children, our minds should dwell much upon these things, and we should strive earnestly to overcome every evil thought and feeling. Nothing that is impure will be permitted to enter where God is. We must seek to keep ourselves unspotted from the world, and have the meek and lowly spirit of Jesus; that we may resist evil and overcome it with good. There is much that is calculated to cross our track and stir up wicked feelings and prompt us to wrong actions. But the grace of God is sufficient for us, and if we live near to him, we shall be enabled to resist temptation, and the approbation of God will rest upon us.

Yours, striving to be a perfect overcomer.

PHOEBE M. LAMSON.

Rochester, N. Y.

From Mary J. Patten.

DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS:—When I think what God has done to save us, my heart is filled with love. He has given his own Son to die that we might live. I do feel thankful that ever I found the path that the meek and lowly Saviour trod. It is a rough and narrow pathway; yet his yoke is easy and his burden is light. There is no real pleasure in this world, it has no charms for me. By faith I have had a foretaste of a better land, and it has spoiled this world for me. The Christian's hope cheers me on and fills my heart with joy. There is true peace in serving God that this world cannot give nor take away.

It is about three years since I gave my heart to God and began to keep all his commandments. Since that time I have tried to serve him. When I have wandered in forbidden paths, I have found no peace; but when I have returned, I have found that wisdom's "ways are ways of pleasantness and all her paths are paths

of peace." Soon, if we are faithful, we shall with the saints of God, have a right to the tree of life and enter in through the gates into the city.

We must leave all to follow Jesus, and be pilgrims and strangers on the earth. If we go in the path with worldlings and seek to please them, we must not expect to reign with Jesus and holy angels. We must come out from among them, deny ourselves and take up our cross and follow him who was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. If we follow Jesus, the world will not love us, for it despised him. But if we can have his smiles it is enough.

I feel determined, by the grace of God, to endure to the end; for I want the prize that looks so glorious, though now seen through a glass darkly. O that we may run the christian race with patience, so that with Paul, we may say, "I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous Judge shall give me at that day."

MARY J. PATTEN.

Rochester, N. Y.

From Lois J. Richmond.

DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS:—I wish to give you a brief sketch of what the Lord has done for me. When quite young I felt the need of a Saviour. Death was a great terror to me, for I felt that I was not prepared to die, and would often wish that I was a christian.

At the age of twelve years, I first heard the doctrine of Christ's second coming. I felt that I was not prepared to meet Jesus and at once commenced the work of seeking my soul's salvation. I soon found peace in believing. I was then buried with Christ in baptism, and joined the Baptist Church. Never shall I forget the first time that I took my seat with the children of God to partake of the Lord's supper and thus commemorate his death and sufferings. I then thought that I never should depart from a Saviour whom I loved so much, and whom I expected soon to see.

My Bible was to me a new book; I loved to read about Jesus and his coming again, and the precious seasons that I enjoyed in my closet with my God and at the family altar, I shall never forget. My mother with seven brothers and sisters could then bow around the family altar and plead the promises of God, and the promise that he would turn none empty away, was often verified to us. But the evil eye of the enemy of all righteousness was upon me. And as I was young in experience and ignorant of the devices of Satan, I was at last taken in his snare. I shall never forget the first step I took in departing from my God. Several times in a day would I go alone to my closet and there pour out my soul in prayer to God; but the enemy told me that I need not pray so

many times in a day. If I would pray three times a day it would be just as well. I heeded his voice, and prayer soon became a task, and I began to settle down into a careless and indifferent state.

In 1850 my mind was again turned to the subject of the Lord's coming. I took my Bible with the determination to see for myself if these things were so. I examined nearly every text that treated on the subject and became convinced it was truth; yet I could not see the reason why Jesus did not come when we expected him. In 1851 I saw the glorious light of the third angel's message. I then felt that I was a sinner in the sight of God, for I had all my life been trampling upon his holy Sabbath. I made haste and delayed not to keep the commandments; and that part of God's Word which before was dark is now made plain. I do praise the Lord for this last message of mercy, which separates us from the world. Never did I feel the importance of being wholly given up to God as at the present time. Jesus says, that unless we forsake all and follow him, we cannot be his disciples. O let us strive to be ready that when Jesus comes we may say, "Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us."

LOIS J. RICHMOND.

Ashfield, Mass.

SELECTIONS.

A Word to the Young.

DANIEL was a young man when he began to serve God in Babylon. He was surrounded by temptations of every kind. He had few with him and many against him. Yet Daniel's life was so blameless and consistent that even his enemies could find no fault in him, except "concerning the law of his God." Dan. vi, 5. And these are not solitary cases. There is a cloud of witnesses whom I could name. Time would fail me if I were to tell you of young Isaac, young Joseph, young Joshua, young Samuel, young David, young Solomon, young Abijah, young Obadiah, young Josiah, young Timothy. These were not angels, but youth, with hearts naturally like your own. They, too, had obstacles to contend with, lusts to mortify, trials to endure, hard places to fill, like any of yourselves. But, young as they were, they all found it possible to serve God.

NOW.

"Now" is the only word ticking from the clock of time. "Now" is the watchword of the wise man. "Now" is on the banner of the prudent. "Now" is the call of God. "Now" is the admonition of eternity. Let us keep this little word constantly in our mind. Whenever any thing is to be done, we should do it with our might, remembering that "now" is the on-

ly time for us. It is indeed a sorry and dangerous way to get through the world by putting off till to-morrow, saying, "Then I will do it." This will never do. "Now" only is ours. "Then" may never be. "Now is the accepted time, now is the day of salvation."

EVIL THOUGHTS.

Have a care of evil thoughts. Oh the mischief they have done in the world! Bad thoughts come first, bad words follow after, and bad deeds bring up the close. Strive against them! Watch against them! Pray against them! They prepare the way for the enemy:—

Bad thought's a thief! He acts his part;
Creeps through the window of the heart;
And, if he once his way can win,
He lets a hundred robbers in.

READER,—“Where are you going?” Of this be assured, that you are not standing still; and if you shrink from looking fixedly into the map of God's word; if you study not to shape your course by it, and to become a diligent traveler on the way it points out, you have need to tremble; for the pit is before you and darkness is around; and once falling, you fall forever. Again, if in seeking the heavenly inheritance, you rest a hope, a thought on any other title than the dying legacy of the Saviour, who purchased it with his precious blood, as a free gift to all who believe; if you prove not by obedience to his law your faith in him, treading in the blessed steps of His most holy life, to the mansion that he has prepared, you may find, too late, that a road can lay very near his kingdom, and yet not lead to it. We are told of such in the Scriptures, and warned by them: Felix trembled; Herod did many things gladly; Agrippa was almost persuaded to be a Christian; Simon Magus was baptized, and followed the apostles. Therefore, be not high-minded, but fear. That is not a saving faith which does not produce good works; those works are utterly rejected that do not spring from faith. The object, the author, the finisher of our faith is Jesus Christ, who is the way, and the truth, and the life. Look unto Him and be saved; look to Him with filial confidence, and receive Him as set forth to be the propitiation for your sins, and an ensample of godly life, as well as the root from whence you must derive all spiritual nourishment — all power to please God.

Reader, may it be thus with you! and you will have no cause to fear, though every rising morning and every closing night, mutely reminding you how rapid and how irrevocable is the march of time, breathe to your soul the impressive question,—“WHERE ARE YOU GOING?”
Mother's Garland.

“If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.”
Matt. xix, 17.

WATCHWORDS.

PRESS on, our life is not a dream,
Though often such its mazes seem;
We were not born to lives of ease,
Ourselves alone to aid and please.
To each a daily task is given,
A labor that shall fit for heaven.
When duty calls; let love grow warm,
Amid the sunshine and the storm;
With faith life's trials boldly breast,
Then come a conqueror to thy rest.

THOROUGH STUDY OF THE BIBLE.

We are commanded to “*Search the Scriptures*,” because they contain treasures of wisdom and knowledge, which cannot be obtained without great effort; for searching implies a difficult and laborious effort to find something valuable. The Bible is the only book that can never cloy. It is uninteresting only when read superficially. Its facts are wonderful and glorious. Its precepts are pure and elevated. Its doctrines are marvelous discoveries of the deep mysteries of Jehovah's character and government. Should not such a book be made the subject of deep thought and thorough investigation? The more it is studied, the more interesting it becomes. The more deeply the soul drinks at this never-failing fountain, the more delicious are its healing waters. The contemplation of its truths expands the mind and elevates the feelings; the understanding of its doctrines enriches and ennobles the soul; confidence in its promises comforts the wounded spirit, and sweetens the cup of affliction; and obedience to its heavenly admonitions purifies the heart and life. It affords a portion to the old and young. It is better adapted than any other book to the early development of mind, and the formation of character. Some of the greatest of men, after having been employed through a long life in the deep researches of philosophy and science, have regretted that their chief attention had not been bestowed on this precious volume. It provides an antidote for all the ills of life, a cordial for the fainting spirit, and a “balm for every wound.”

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