

gular thoughts and desires, from indulging, where they have been accidentally called into the mind, ideas and feelings which could not be shamelessly owned to a revered friend ; — or if it should lead any to impose a restraint upon themselves which before they had not thought necessary, and thus preserved from farther wanderings. But the effort will not have been lost, if it should merely rouse the sleeping conscience ; it may diminish the evil, if it do not eradicate it : — that torper of the conscience is the death of all the highest principles of religious worth.

Give up any thing — yes, every thing — rather than depart from duty : it is the command of Jesus, and wisdom directs to obey. Cultivate the love of duty, the desire of following its dictates to the utmost. Whatever leads you towards the paths of sin, let it be sacrificed, however dear or valuable. Hold yourselves ready to obey the first promptings of conscience ; and let no present good, no present evil, have sufficient power over you to lead you to forfeit your hopes of heaven. It is better to lose all here, than subject yourselves to misery hereafter : better to sacrifice every hope of happiness here, than lose the happiness of eternity.

Would that my young readers might be led to serious thought by these reflections, that they would make them the foundation of their principles of conduct. They are prompted by the earnest wish to save them from knowing, by experience, the dreadful consequences of indulging irregular desires, of fostering them by reading or by conversation ; — by the earnest wish to make those feel who have already erred in this respect, that though they perhaps have not yet thought so, they have in reality entered into the paths of sin, — that they in some measure share