

for a moment on the words of the wise man: "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might." To be prompt in action is a most invaluable qualification. The man who is constantly indulging in doubt and delay is incapable of performing any thing aright. His knowledge may be extensive, his penetration quick, his understanding enlarged, his imagination vigorous, still he is worse than useless in action. With such an one the end of all is the hopeless exclamation, "What to do I cannot tell." In the mean time, opportunity flies; and he enters upon the consideration of some other matter with the same unprofitable waste of thought. So much for *indecision* as pertaining to the things of this life. The consequence is apparent to all: and if we apply the same reflections to the things which are not seen the inference will be precisely the same. "Of man's miraculous mistakes, this bears the palm, that all men are *about* to live, for ever on the brink of being born."

We might pursue these *reflections* to the close of this new-born year, and then find ourselves in our present position, both with respect to time and to eternity. 'Tis *action*, decisive and immediate action, that is necessary. To trifle, is not to live. To purpose to lead a new life in the course of the next year, the next month, day, or hour, is to leave it undone for ever. *Time*, we should remember, is *eternity*. The question then arises—How shall I proceed? Where is my chart? Where is my directory? Ask the mere worldling,—he will point me to the path which leads to aggrandizement and earthly pleasures. Ask the Christian, (by which of course we must understand the *follower* of Christ) and he points me to the Bible, and to the directions therein plainly laid down by its divine author. The Christian will tell me never to be easy until I have inwardly and heartily taken that for my guide through life. He will tell me to put a high value upon precious time; to devote the earliest and best part of it to the interests of eternity; and to look upon the loss of it as greater than the loss of all worldly things.

"Throw *years* away?  
Throw empires and be blameless! moments seize—  
Heaven's on their wing. a moment we may wish  
When worlds want wealth to buy."

The Christian tells me that man stands every hour at the door of eternity, and if I step in without the "one thing needful," I am eternally undone. To consider, and to *believe* this is a blessing above all price. He tells me moreover to begin and end, not only this year but this day, and every day with God. Yes—these are the simple but sublime teachings of every real Christian. Happy they, and they only, who improve thereby.

We close these meditations by wishing the reader, indeed and in truth, a "happy n w year," reminding him at the same time, that if he expects to find happiness in any thing short of the Redeemer, he will be grievously disappointed in his search. Therefore let us all, as the year glides silently and rapidly by,

"Beware what earth calls happiness, beware  
All joys but joys that never can expire  
Who builds on less than an immortal base,  
Fond as he seems, condemns his joys to death."

ALPHA.