

occasion to spend much of it, yet, a time will come, when you will need it to maintain you.

1017. ZEAL.

*Em.* Zeal is the most bold, active, persevering spirit, that ever possesses the minds of men. It never suffers them to abate their exertions, nor to neglect any opportunity of promoting the cause in which they are engaged. It inspires them with resolution and fortitude to meet and overcome all opposition. It awakens and invigorates all their powers of body and mind, and stimulates them to the greatest activity, patience, and perseverance. The fire of zeal, like all other fire, the longer it burns, and the wider it spreads, the more it attracts everything around it to feed its flame. A growing ardor, resolution, and activity always mark the character and conduct of those, whose minds are absorbed and governed by the passion of zeal.

*Ab.* False zeal may rise as high as true, and indeed much higher; because it is extremely apt to estimate its object above its intrinsic and comparative importance. Besides, when a totally selfish heart is awakened into zeal, there is nothing in it to stem the tide of affections, which all unite and harmonize in the ardent pursuit of a selfish end. False zeal, therefore, often differs from true in its appearance as well as in its nature. True zeal is a strong, steady, uniform, benevolent affection; but false zeal is a strong, desultory, boisterous, selfish passion.

*Ed.* Let true zeal characterize all the readers of this book, while they live, and their end shall be glorious; their existence, *immeasurably valuable*. [See 287.]