

**NEARER HOME.**—We are travelling in the coach of time; every day and hour brings us nearer home, and the coach-wheels whirl round apace when we are upon the road; we seldom think the carriage goes too fast; we are pleased to pass the mile-stones: I call new-years day, or my birth-day, a mile-stone.

I have now almost reached my seventy-third yearly mile-stone. What dangers have I escaped or been brought through! If my heart would jump to be within three miles of you, why does it not jump from morning till night, to think that I am probably within three years of seeing the Lamb upon the throne, and joining in the praises of the blessed spirits of the redeemed, who behold him without a veil or cloud, and are filled with his glory and love!—*John Newton.*

**GIVING** is a test of *receiving*. The unfilled cistern cannot overflow. A man, seeking to impart grace to the souls of others, has at least some proof that he has received grace for his own.

**SATAN AS AN ANGEL OF LIGHT.**—It is from Satan as an angel of light, and from his oracles as the reflections of that light, that we have most to dread. The disguises which he is putting on are fatally seductive. The lengths to which he goes in pretended reverence for religion; the subtle skill which he has put forth in beautifying what is sensual, in refining what is carnal, in purifying what is gross; the artful way in which he has mixed up the true and the false, the lawful and the unlawful, the certain and the uncertain, the earthly and the heavenly, the human and the divine; the marvellous cunning he has displayed in infusing a sort of religious element into what is meant to be the counteractive of religion; in throwing a religious hue over subjects and scenes intended by him to withdraw the heart from God; the sophistry by which he has succeeded in substituting the beauties of Pantheism for the blasphemies of Atheism; the dexterity by which he has introduced love to the Creator's works, instead of love to the Creator Himself, natural "earnestness" for the zeal of the renewed man, self-reliance for dependence upon the Almighty, sympathy with "nature" for fellowship with God; the successful subtlety with which he has confounded opinion with truth, speculativeness with honest inquiry, credulity with faith, misanthropy with separation from the world; these things are truly fitted to alarm, inasmuch as they threaten the obliteration of every sacred landmark, and the final substitution of evil for good, and darkness for light.—*H. Bonar, D.D.*

**A WORD OF CHEER.**—The most trifling act which is marked by usefulness to others, is nobler in God's sight than the most brilliant accomplishment of genius. To teach a few Sunday-school children, week after week, common-place simple truths, persevering in spite of dulness and mean capacities, is a more glorious occupation than the highest meditations or creations of genius which edify or instruct only our own solitary soul.—*Robertson's Sermons.*

**EXTREMES.**—What extreme contraries do often wicked conceits run into! In their time of security they cannot be brought to think sin to be sin. At last desperately, they think it such a sin that it cannot be forgiven. At first they are delighted with the sense and smell of their iniquity as of a sweet rose; but the rose of their delight withers, and there is a thorn under it that pricks the heart.  
\* \* \* So men will look to sin either too superficially or too superstitiously.  
—*Thomas Adams.*

**THE ANCHOR.**—We do not steady a ship by fixing the anchor on aught that is within the vessel. The anchorage must be without. And so of the soul, when resting, not on what it sees in itself, but on what it sees in the character of God, the certainty of His truth, the impossibility of His falsehood.—*Chalmers.*