

in his hand. "Ah, Robert," said Mr. Stakey, shaking his head, "I thought you would soon repent of your bargain. It is a good thing to encourage a contented disposition, and not to envy others, nor unnecessarily to repine at the troubles which God has been pleased to lay upon us. Let this little affair be a lesson to us both, for depend upon it, we never commit a greater mistake than when we imagine the trials of others to be light and our own crosses to be heavier than those of our neighbours." "Godliness with contentment is great gain."

G. M.

STUDY TO BE SUCCESSFUL.

To be successful and happy costs something. Assure yourself that if you yield to effeminate suggestions you sink. Nobly determine, at the hazard of some weariness and some smart, to pass contentedly through trials and labors, till by honesty and perseverance you become a merchant. Consider how many a man, now in Wall street, came to town with all his personal effects in one bundle. Away with home-sickness and querulous imbecility. Tear up those whining epistles in your private memorandum, and write "perseverance." Quash every disposition to make changes except where they tend to moral benefit, or knowledge of business. "It is ill transplanting a tree which thrives well in the soil." Let the cheerfulness of a contented mind evince itself in deference and submission to those who control your time, and in uniform good nature and courtesy to your companions in business. With such principles and resolutions, you may rely on Divine Providence, you may boldly hope. Brace your nerves to meet every engagement, and however poor, you will succeed. Dismiss from your soul all belief in the Divinity of modern Pagans, called Luck, and stake nothing on sudden windfalls. "In human nature," says Playfair, "there is no struggle that appears more unequal, at first sight, than a man, without connections or capital, against the man who has both; yet there is no contest which so constantly terminates in favor of him who appears to have the disadvantage."—[J. W. Alexander, D. D.]

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

READER—Will you permit a well-wisher to your soul to remind you that 'the season of affliction will come?' What will you do then? To whom will you turn for consolation! To your gay companions? They may desert you. To the remembrance of past pleasures? This may torture you. To the world you have idolized? It has no balm for a wounded heart. To the God whose love you have slighted? Will you not fear to look to him in affliction, whom in prosperity you have neglected, or perhaps insulted? Would not one hour of a Christian's consolation—one smile of a Saviour's love, be then felt to be worth all the gratifications this world ever gave?

The hour of Death will come! What will you do then? When the world is giving way under your feet—when eternity is opening on your view—when your body is tortured with pain, or sinking in decay—when your soul is hovering on the brink of a dark and fearful abyss—when all that meets your view is an angry God, a dissolving frame, a departing world, a yawning hell—what, oh what, will you do then?

The Day of Judgment will come! And what will you do then? 'Behold, He cometh with clouds, and every eye shall see him.' How soon, who can tell? The Lord Jesus Christ, the crucified one of Calvary, will be revealed from heaven in flaming fire, taking vengeance on them that know not God. 'Then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory, the judgment shall be set, and the books opened, and you shall stand before his judgment seat! You, if you persevere and perish in your present state, you, in that day, shall find that "it will be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah than for you." But even this is not the worst, even this is only the beginning of sorrows.

The age of Eternity will come! And what a thought! To you they will be ages of eternal woe! Oh, to be tormented in that flame that can never be quenched! To feel the gnawing of that worm that can never die! It is too horrible to think of—what will it be to endure? Are you resolved to make the fearful experiment? God in his infinite mercy forbid!