

# The Freeman's Journal

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## Praise to God.

O worship the King all glorious above!  
O gratefully sing his power and his love!  
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,  
Pavilion'd in splendour and girdled with praise.

O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,  
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy shade;  
His chariots of wrath dwell in thunder clouds form,  
And dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

This earth, with its store of wondrous unfold,  
Thy power hath founded of old;  
Hath established it fast by a changeless decree,  
And round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Thy beautiful cars, what tongue can recite?  
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;  
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,  
And sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,  
In this do we trust, nor find thee to fail;  
Thy mercies, how tender, how firm to the end!  
Our maker, defender, redeemer, and friend!

O measureless might, ineffable love!  
While angels delight to hymn thee above,  
The humbler creature, though feebler thy lays,  
With true adoration shall lip to thy praise!

From the Wesleyan Methodist Magazine.

## Duty of Young Men to Work for the Church of Christ.

"In the morning show thy seed," writes the wise King. "Let the young men arise," commands Job, captain of the hosts of David. Youth and activity are inseparably associated, even as old age and repose are closely allied. It has been said, "There is a restlessness in youth which finds relief only in action." Happy, if its exertions be directed in the right channel! Let us consider, first, the obligation under which young men are placed to work for the church.

The phrase is taken to signify labour performed, as we have opportunity, to the glory of God, for the edification of the followers of Jesus Christ, and the conversion of sinners. Those who are themselves converted, and those who are anxious to become so, are the parties to render acceptable service here. The majority of you, it is believed, are renewed and inflamed by the Spirit of holy love—young men in Christ Jesus. But should any among you be still careless about the pearl of great price, it behooves them to decide at once that their first and most careful heed should be given to their own salvation, which is to be wrought out "with fear and trembling."

As a thank offering to God for early conversion, it is obligatory upon you to work for the church. Next to salvation itself, the blessing for which you have to thank God most, that you were saved from the power of sin in the days of your youth. If you had not at this critical period turned to the Lord, it is very probable that you would never have done so at all; and the harvest and summer of a whole lifetime of Christian privileges would have passed away, unblest, unimproved. If you had postponed your great concern until the "sere and yellow leaf" of age appeared, yet could you still have done so at all; and the harvest and summer of a whole lifetime of Christian privileges would have passed away, unblest, unimproved. If you had postponed your great concern until the "sere and yellow leaf" of age appeared, yet could you still have done so at all; and the harvest and summer of a whole lifetime of Christian privileges would have passed away, unblest, unimproved.

There are some departments of labour especially adapted to young men. The sphere of every-day life in which each moves will afford opportunities for doing good. You are constantly associating with those who are like yourselves. Endeavour then, as soon as may be, to ascertain how they are affected with relation to the truths of eternity. Some of them you will find, perhaps to your surprise, already under religious conviction: this will gratefully receive your instructions, and their speedy membership with the church will crown your fidelity with a cheering result. And if others whom you address be indifferent, you still possess advantages which will greatly contribute to secure their attention, and eventually their hearts. You will not appear before them as a Minister, from whom, as a matter of course, they look for a lecture on godliness; nor as an aged professor, standing on the verge of eternity, who has lost all zest for the pleasures of life, and can scarcely be expected to make due allowance for those whose passions are strong, and who have almost every gratification which desire the inexperienced, to be before them, one of themselves—as young, as sanguine, as capable of enjoyment, as they are. They will see that you only ask them to do what you have done; namely, while still surrounded by enchanting besetments which deceive the inexperienced, to "come out from among them," and consecrate themselves to the service of the heavenly Master. Now this is high vantage ground, occupied by none but yourselves.

Audience will be given to you, if to no one else; you will be believed when you insist upon it that religion is more gladdening, enriching, and ennobling than the pleasures of sin. While still you can claim this advantage, O, make effort, after effort, and account no toil too great, to win your associates for the fold of Christ.

The Sunday-school, and the sphere of tract-distribution, afford you most convenient openings for usefulness; and many of you have entered these fields of disinterested labour. Yet another door is before you, if you are willing to act, as far as your time will allow, in the capacity of volunteer workers, visiting from house to house, if it be but an hour a week, the inhabitants of our streets, courts, and alleys,—inquiring into their spiritual condition, and inviting the careless to the house of prayer. Now, while this is a duty incumbent upon us all, and the perishing souls of thousands demand it at our hands, yet, on account of your exemption from the more depressing cares of life, and that spirit of enterprise by which your spring-time is characterized, you possess special facilities for the self-denying and evangelizing effort.

Under the guidance of your Ministers, you were to form yourselves into a society for the prosecution of a work so much needed, the wilds and wastes of Heathen-like wickedness, which abound in this Christian and civilized border, might soon begin, through God's blessing, to mantle as with

the beauty of the blossoming rose. In the hopeful conversion of some, whom you found ignorant of Christ, even upon the bed of death, and in the consistent church-membership of others, whom you first persuaded to enter the sanctuary, you would meet with an ample reward. This is no chimerical scheme; again and again it has been tried, and has succeeded. It requires much of self-denial and holy hardihood; but God has been pleased to grant it His abundant blessing. If you were to follow out a well-digested plan of house-visiting for a single year, the difficulties encountered would prove an invaluable training-school, preparing you for any holy service, however arduous, which in future years your hand might find to do.

There is another sphere of usefulness, (the highest and the holiest,) which opens before young men; the work, namely, of the Christian ministry, whether fulfilled at home or in a foreign land. From your ranks the great majority of Christ's ambassadors are taken: if the Holy Ghost calls any to this work who are in middle life, it is the exception, not the rule. But you will understand that because vacant places in the ministry are commonly filled up by young men, therefore you are all called with this vocation. It is the prerogative of God alone to point out who are to be set apart for such a service; and far be it from any of us to interfere with the Divine right, or indiscreetly to press you as Ministers to work for the church. The appeal now is wholly to the subjects of a divinely inspired conviction that they are thus called of God,—a conviction strengthened by the concurring counsels of judicious Christian friends. To these let it be said, Whatever temporal gains you may have to forego, and whatever hardships you may have to brave, be not disobedient to what you have every reason to believe a heavenly calling, lest you once for all miss your providential course, and be cast in shallow, and whirled in eddies, through life; or, lest, even if you have worldly success, you be habitually self-consciousness that you are not where God would have you be, and perpetually troubled by a voice, "What doest thou here?—What doest thou there?—God's cause is strengthened and enlarged, in a great measure, by the agency of men divinely appointed to minister the truths and ordinances of Christianity; and it is a serious question, whether the church is not just now suffering on account of a paucity of richly-endowed labourers, especially in the foreign field.

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Allied to this is the spirit of humility,—the spirit of a little child. Sink in lowly shame before the Lord, and in adoring gratitude that He permits you at all—much more, while in early life—to assist in the building of His church. The spirit of humility will preserve the spirit of dependence on God, and lead you to mingle prayers with labours. Without much fervent supplication, you will not understand that because vacant places in the ministry are commonly filled up by young men, therefore you are all called with this vocation. It is the prerogative of God alone to point out who are to be set apart for such a service; and far be it from any of us to interfere with the Divine right, or indiscreetly to press you as Ministers to work for the church. The appeal now is wholly to the subjects of a divinely inspired conviction that they are thus called of God,—a conviction strengthened by the concurring counsels of judicious Christian friends. To these let it be said, Whatever temporal gains you may have to forego, and whatever hardships you may have to brave, be not disobedient to what you have every reason to believe a heavenly calling, lest you once for all miss your providential course, and be cast in shallow, and whirled in eddies, through life; or, lest, even if you have worldly success, you be habitually self-consciousness that you are not where God would have you be, and perpetually troubled by a voice, "What doest thou here?—What doest thou there?—God's cause is strengthened and enlarged, in a great measure, by the agency of men divinely appointed to minister the truths and ordinances of Christianity; and it is a serious question, whether the church is not just now suffering on account of a paucity of richly-endowed labourers, especially in the foreign field.

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In preparation for occupying efficiently such departments of toil as those already named, work for God and His church during the hours which you devote to your improvement. Because these hours are so few, prize them highly, and strive to profit by them to the uttermost. You squander them most ruinously, if you habituate yourselves to read the exciting and defiling romance-publications of the day. Thus wasting your golden time, you will not only injure yourselves, but will also injure yourselves for diligent service. A palying sentimentalism will hold you in vile bondage; and, as the inveterate optimist is utterly incapacitated for the duties of daily life, though quite competent to rove over any fairy-land which may start up before his diseased imagination, so will you be held in this vitiated mental state, you will become slothful in business, listless in spirit, a negligent servant of the Lord, though perfectly competent to execute any mission of knight-errantry which that profound erudition may suggest to the study of which you so unhappily devote your vacant hours. Thus grievously do not err. Let the greater part of the books you read be such as will yield you information to be reduced to practice when opportunities of promoting the cause of Christ present themselves. Read and master those books which will furnish you with a triumphant answer, should the young man whom you ask to-morrow to be a Christian offer an infidel objection to the doctrines of our faith. Read those books which shall cause your Sunday-school instructions to be pleasingly and profitably diversified. You should not take charge of the lowest class without some previous study. Above all, let the word of God dwell in you richly in all wisdom. So will you be preparing both for the more limited circles of duty which are now accessible, and for wider ones when they shall open before you.

As to the spirit which should actuate you while working for the church, accept the following counsel:—Carefully cultivate a single eye to the glory of God: aim straight at it, and only at it. Be eminently young men in Christ Jesus, deriving all from Him, dedicating all to Him. Covet to get under the full control of premeditation: then you will be happy, even when you are not successful. Some men, when young, have struck out for themselves an apparently philanthropic course; but events have shown their covert motive was self-aggrandizement. Mark the career and end of such a man. For some time he succeeds in deluding his fellows by high-sounding words, expressive of unbounded attachment to his species, and of deep hatred to all oppressors. Those who hear him declaim with much impassioned eloquence against the lash of the slave, the iron sceptre of the tyrant-king, are ready to conclude that the embodiment of all that is humane, liberal, and illustrious stands before them, and to say that he merits not only hero-applause, but hero-worship too. By and by he reaches his goal; he gains the highest pinnacle of worldly fame and affluence that is accessible to him. He cannot rise higher. What becomes of him now? Does he still prosecute his honourable and benevolent course? Alas, no! His motive is gone: there is no more fuel to nourish the

fires of his ambition: there are no honours in reserve more glittering than those he already wears: His work is finished; his occupation is gone; and the indolence, pride, and impiousness of his latter days give the broad lie to loud pretensions which marked the morning of his career. Whatever your hand findeth to do, do it with the light of eternity flashing around you in all its unearthly brilliancy; do it, as standing in the manifested presence of Him who filleth heaven and earth; do it, desiring nothing but the welcome of Him who shall sit on the great year, and be blessed in your deed, and blessed forever, with the wreaths of earthly glory have all faded, and the voice of human applause is hushed in an everlasting silence.

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