

strength for days to come. Earnestly seek a new effusion of the Spirit on thy soul, that this year if you are spared below may be a year of greater self denial, greater labor for the good of men and greater zeal for the glory of God, so that at the end of it you may say, "Now is our salvation nearer than when we believed."

WORK!

We are saved by faith in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; but in order to show forth our faith and develop the christian life in our own souls we must *work*.

Christ wrought and suffered for us to the utmost; he did not spare breath or blood; he did not shrink from the pains of death that we might be saved. In token of our love and gratitude to Him let us *work*.

Our day is swiftly passing and the gloomy night is near, even the night of the grave in which no one can work. Time is fleeing from us with all the swiftness of thought; therefore let us *work*.

We may be faint and weary, and longing for repose. The burden may be too heavy; the hill too steep, the toil too arduous; yet faint not, but struggle on. There is rest for the weary. While it is day, our duty is to *work*.

The hosts of this world are up and doing. Man is contending with man for mastery, and the flood of active exertion goes surging on. No rest for hand or foot or burning brain. The race for riches and earthly honours is keen and ceaseless. Shall we loiter in the heavenly race? Shall we yield in the spiritual conflict? No! in the face of all hindrance and discouragement let us *work*.

The harvest is plenteous; it is white, and bending to the sickle wherever we turn the eye. How vast the fields that wave before us: but the storms are coming. Angry clouds lower above the hills. What shall we do to gather in the precious harvest of God? Let us *work*.

We are watched by Angels; they minister with us to the heirs of salvation; they would gladly be our fellow-workers in the field. We are watched by Devils; they

strive to lead us astray and thwart us in every effort for good; they aim at the total ruin of earth's harvest. Therefore, with the holy Angels against Satan and his hosts let us *work*.

Christ is coming to judgment. Behold he cometh with clouds and every eye shall see him, and his reward is with him. He comes to give every one according to the deeds done in the body whether good or bad; therefore let us *work*.

HELL is prepared for those who do evil and waste God's precious gifts and benedictions on self and sin. Into it shall the devil and his angels be cast, with all who are not saved by grace. The unprofitable servant meets this dismal doom; therefore let us *work*.

HEAVEN has many mansions, welcoming all who love Christ and do his work. The golden gates are open; the peaceful river is flowing freely; the tree of life is spreading its healing and welcome shadows; and here a crown of glory awaits all Christ's faithful servants; therefore let us *work*.

God the Father is working; Christ is working; the Holy Spirit is working; the Angels of God are working; the Devil and his angels are working. The world is working; can we be idle! No; whatever our hands find to do let us do it with all our might. In the day of joy, in the night of sorrow; when strong and young, and when weak, old and weary; lonely in the shadows, or cheered on by the applause of multitudes, always, everywhere let us work till God call us to our rest and reward.

"TAKING STOCK."

He thought himself rich. He had laboured late and early for many years, and success crowned his adventures. His balance at the Bank was constantly increasing, and his investments were all yielding a good return. Was he not rich? Death came and looked at him and bade him leave all, that his body might lie in the narrow house and his soul stand before God! He had laid up no treasure in Heaven. Alas, he was not rich; he lacked the Pearl of Great Price, and lacking that he perished!