

### “HOW OLD ART THOU?”

(A NEW YEAR'S ADDRESS TO SABBATH SCHOOL CHILDREN.)

My young friends,—I wish to address a few words to you on this, the first day of a New Year; and, as is my wont in speaking to those older than you, I shall select a text of Holy Scripture as the subject of address. The text will be a very short and a very simple one. You will find it in the book of Genesis, the forty-seventh chapter, and the eighth verse: “And Pharaoh said unto Jacob, How old art thou?” This question, we need scarcely tell you, was first asked by a very great man,—Pharaoh, king of the Egyptians. And the individual to whom it was put was another great man,—Jacob, one of the patriarchs; and the occasion on which it was asked, was, you remember this: Jacob, who was now an old man, had come up to Egypt to see his son Joseph,—the boy, you remember, who was once sold as a slave by his brethren, but who was now prime minister of Pharaoh. And he was now being presented by his son to the great monarch, and was standing in the king's presence, before the imperial throne. We think we see him, an old venerable man, his head covered with silvery grey hairs, and his brow marked with not a few wrinkles by the hand of time, and by grief for the loss of his son Joseph. Pharaoh, seated upon his throne, looks at the venerable patriarch. He sees the traces of years written upon the forehead of the good old man, and he accordingly kindly asks him, “How old art thou?”

Now, my young friends, the question which Pharaoh put to Jacob, we are going to put to you to-day; “How old art thou?” And not only will we put the question, but we will answer it. Listen to us, then, and we will tell you something about your age.

And first of all, we observe, you are young—you are yet in the morning of life. You are not like the patriarch Jacob, full of years. You are now in the happiest of all seasons, youth. Grief has not yet weighed heavily on your young hearts, as it did upon the heart of old Jacob, bringing his grey hairs to the grave. Prize, children, your present happy time.—improve your present happy time. There is many an old man in the world who would like to be young as you are. There is many a one that would like to have your golden time back again. But listen to us a little longer, and we shall tell you more about your age. We have said that you are young; but you are older than perhaps you imagine. Let us see.

I. We remark. *You are old enough to seek God.*

Perhaps some of you may be thinking that you are too young to seek God. What! you may be saying to yourselves, does