

THE CHILDREN'S PORTION.

PRACTICAL THOUGHTS FOR THE CHILDREN.

BY ALPHEUS.

No. I.

Once more the *Monthly Advocate* has come and gladdened our home, a welcome visitor. "Alpheus," having had a chequered experience, and being childish in his ways, although his hair is gray, thought he might recount some of the lessons he has learned in his journey through life, and, perhaps, by ransacking memory's storehouse, find some incident whereby both the writer and reader might profit.

Young as you, readers of the *Advocate*, are, you have no doubt observed that most of our troubles come from our own mistakes. Our neighbours will be to us just what we are to them. Are we cold and indifferent to the wants of those about us?—They will be the same to us. Are we obliging and ready to help others?—Well, everyone may not help us, but the rule is that more help will come to us than we have given to others. And there is no maxim more sure than the Divine one, as a man, a woman, a boy, and girl sows, "so shall they also reap."

Once upon a time I undertook the journey under the great Fall of Niagara. The guide went ahead with rope in hand along the dark, slippery, and dangerous pathway. A dread came over me, as I groped amid the spray, and reflected that a mis-step might shut out the light of day to me forever; but I could not go back, I had hold of the rope, and was led on. But as we emerged on the other side, I was fully repaid for all my fears at the sight of the majesty of the tumbling waters, as they came thundering down into the abyss at our feet; terror was forgotten in the most intense enjoyment, and the lesson I learned was that our best pleasures are enhanced by difficulties. The trials of life sweeten the rest that follows. Although life's pathway may be dark and dangerous, if we are united to the best of all guides, we must, in faith, hold fast and push forward. The rest beyond will enhance it all.

Not long ago I listened to a sermon from the text, "we all do fade as a leaf, and our iniquities like the wind have taken us away." The preacher said somewhat as follows: "You, no doubt, have watched spring foliage budding and cheering the face of nature—emblem of youth; or the full leaf of summer, when its grateful shade is sought for refreshment—emblem of manhood; or you may have from an elevation watched the glory of the summer sunset, descending over the deep and mellow autumn tints—emblem of mature age; or the November blasts may have been whirling the sere and yellow leaf in its dance of death, and we have said—surely this is the emblem of old age. In the fulness of its foliage one might ask, Will all these leaves fall? Yes! they will *all* fall. But when will *this one* fall? No one knows that. Then, by the certainty that *all* will die, also by the uncertainty of which *one* will die, make to-day, your peace with God."

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