

the imagination of those whose minds are bent solely to the acquisition of wealth. While corroding cares enslave the powers, and great possessions bring anxiety, the student of nature finds his joys augment as his store of knowledge increases, and he is more firmly grounded in the belief of the unerring Wisdom, and the Power of Him who is the author of all, and whose works bear the impress of Perfection.

Autumn is the season in which we are called upon to toil, to prepare for the severity of the blast that too surely is coming. It is also the season of nature's fulness, and preparation for repose. The bud and the blossom have passed away, and laden with fruit, the bending bough can scarce support its ripening load. The feathered tenants of the grove now cease their songs, and many are preparing for a flight from the scenes of their joys and loves. The period of toil in nestling; of anxiety and watchfulness with their once tender brood is past, and they unite in the chirping band to wing their flight to more genial climes. The promise given to man in sunny spring, of provision for his wants, has been made good by his liberal Benefactor, and his heart should beat grateful for the bounteous store thus graciously bestowed.

This season, in its more advanced state, leads almost inevitably to "solemn thought, and serious musing." The variety of shades exhibited in nature's adornment, is a feature unknown at other times, and to the beholder presents beauties which the artist in vain attempts to describe. The fading glories of the verdant scene remain in mournful attendance on their departing Queen. Thus, as the seasons change and pass away, doth one generation of men pursue another, and with their own tinsel, and fresh greenness adorn the Theatre of Life, until, in like manner, forced off the Stage by their sanguine and ardent successors. Those whose declining vigour caused apprehensions among their anxious friends during spring time and summer, and who reluctantly forsook the busy haunts of men, resign the unequal contest, and yield to the mandate of time. The mournful winds sweep o'er their new made graves, where sorrowing friends resort; and the driven foliage in whirling eddies gathering round their resting place, seems to claim a kindred with the withering frame of frail and mortal man. The advantages of frequent retirement and meditation, are here apparent, and though the daily concerns of life, and the accumulation of wealth, may exclude salutary reflections at this season, yet we are always made better by an occasional voluntary attendance in the Temple of Sorrow, and rendered thereby more able to encounter and overcome the vexations, disappointments and trials, that await us in every stage of our sojourn.

The autumnal age of Man, if the preceding years have been spent profitably, seems best calculated for the calm enjoyment of the rational comforts and pleasures of life. Time and experience have softened the glowing colours in the picture which imagination once drew of the scene before us. Insensibly have we changed, but hope still animates; and the prospects of another and a better world brighten as we near them. The unsatisfying nature of all sensual joys is fully understood, and a recollection of the multitudes who started with us in the journey of life, (but who have fallen by the way, a prey to vice, frailty or misfortune, whose hopes were as bright, and whose connexions

and other advantages gave promise of a more successful issue than we could reasonably expect,) fills the mind with gratitude for the favor of an extended term of existence, and with wonder, that with the limited share of wisdom or prudence, which it was our lot to possess, we should have remained comparatively unhurt by the storms which destroyed the hopes, and broke the hearts, of many whose skill and judgment seemed far superior to ours.

This period of life is particularly valuable to transmit knowledge to those who are just starting on the path, the brightest spots of which, only strike their vision; and their joyous and unsuspecting hearts cannot conceive how any cloud or shadow can ever dwell there.

The aged can give kind warnings of the dangers of the way they have just passed over; can describe so clearly the miseries that await those who linger to enjoy the gilded baits with which vice has strewed the whole distance—that the young who listen to and obey the counsel, will be led to avoid the vices which have brought sorrow and destruction on many less favored, who have gone before them.

The value of such counsellors is beyond price; their words should be treasured up in the memory of youth; and I always feel an unusual degree of pleasure when I see those present at Meetings, and giving their testimony to the efficacy and value of Temperance principles.

No vice so surely intercepts our progress toward the sunny spot in existence, an autumnal age sweetened by virtuous recollections; none so harrows and grieves us at the age, and renders desolate and mournful its lengthened hours; brings the clouds of sorrow around the brow, and bitter unavailing tears down the cheeks of the venerable Traveller in life, as does the use of the intoxicating cup. Many a Parent, who has seen in his Son his own early vigour renewed, and rejoiced in the opening intellect and promise of the golden fruits of virtue which were the blossoming on this fair scion of his house, has been stricken with sorrow and fallen; the sands of life stopped violently long before the fading eye and whitened locks could give notice of their terminating course. The Mother has sickened and fallen in her prime, when her Son or the husband of her loved and only Daughter has become the victim of the relentless and enslaving enemy.

These awful examples have been very numerous, and the victims of this habit the loveliest and most generous of our species; and truly insensible to the woes of his fellows may he be, that does not rejoice in the advancement of this kindred Institutions. The improvement in the appearance and conduct of the poorer classes, since the late advancement of Temperance Associations in this City, and the almost total cessation of mendicancy, gives evidence of their utility that is convincing, plain and practical. Multitudes are restored to rationality and cleanliness, and many to a participation in the hallowed joys of the christian and the philanthropist.

What work can be more honorable at any period of life than using our talents for the restoration of the fallen, the reclaiming of the outcast, and preventing the degradation and ruin of beautiful and interesting youths? To save them we must lead them into habits that will recommend them to wise and good men, and be a guarantee for their future orderly and useful course of life. The object of Temperance