

they are. "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it."

### OUR OBJECT.

An object is anything thrown in our way to arrest attention—something presented to the mind or heart to awaken interest or to excite the feelings. It may, therefore, serve one or two purposes; either to impede progress, or to so captivate the heart or mind as to ensure or facilitate it. Numberless are the objects with which our pathway through life is strewn; some of which attract us but momentarily; others impress or occupy the mind for periods varying much in length, others again yield constant and absorbing interest. Diverse and complex, also, are the effects of these objects around us upon our senses, feelings and conceptions. Every chord which the heart possesses is, at one time or other struck; hence, joy, sorrow, hope, despondency, hilarity, depression, certainty, suspense. Rapid, varied and often extraneous are the modulations of the music of a human heart! Many an object is but a weight—often a salutary weight—for the back; whilst other objects arouse, to a greater or less degree, the passions of the heart.

And it is well to discriminate as to this; for we are called upon to "Keep the heart with all diligence: for out of it are the issues of life." Who is there among mortals without a burden to the back; without a desire of the heart?—It is important, I repeat it, to consider what objects form the burden of the back, and what bring into play the desires of the heart. Take one example, our business. Where does that find its lodgment? On the back as its burden, or upon the heart as its object? But whence these objects? From God or Satan? To work for our daily bread is

absolutely necessary and right, Gen. 3; 19—it is the burden, laid by God upon our back; and for the heart He has presented one blessed Object: "This is My Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." Matt. 3; 17. The thousand other objects which press around us are, most surely, permitted by God, in order to test our hearts, but who casts them there? Is it not the devil? Indeed it is worthy of note, that the very name "devil" has its derivation in a word signifying "to throw across;" and is he not ever throwing things athwart our pathway either to stumble or beguile our hearts, that we may not fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Finisher of Faith? Heb. 12; 2. May we take heed to this!

Most men have what is called an "object in life." They form an inward resolve to achieve some act, to embark in some enterprise, or to rise to some position. They are ambitious in a cause which they, perhaps deem correct. But what avails it in the end, though success crown their efforts, if not measured according to God's unerring standard?

If riches be the summit, the attained summit too, of their ambition (like men of the world who have their portion in this life, and leave the rest of their substance to their babes, Psalm 17; 14,) what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Mark 8; 36; or if it be knowledge, "it shall vanish away," 1 Cor. 13; if it be glory as men count glory: "all the glory of man is as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away," 1 Pet. 1; 24; if it be to make a name, the history of Gen. 11, should serve as a solemn warning, see verse 4.

Many a time have men, according to their own measurement of things, reached the goal of their aspirations, and man's "book of remembrance"—his scroll of fame, is filled with their names.