

gather many fragments of time from business; than which there is nothing of a temporal nature more conducive to the well-being of society. It is like salt which preserves the world from putrefaction, or like a continual breeze, which prevents it from becoming stagnant. Without business, mankind, being unemployed, would undoubtedly prey upon each other, and the consequences would be most disastrous to the well being of society. Convinced of this, many seem to launch out beyond their proper depth; and are so far immersed in business, as to have no time for things of greater moment. But as this is carrying lawful things to an unlawful extent, let it be our constant care, as far as possible, to arrange our plans, that each revolving day may be made to contribute some fragment which may be spent in seeking the God of our fathers, and the salvation of our souls.

From conversation also we may gather some fragments. And what a blessing is the gift of speech. Of this we are always sensible while beholding those who have it not, whom we justly consider as pitiable objects. For whatever thoughts may revolve in their minds they are unable to communicate them. Should they be afflicted; they cannot relate their tale of woe, so as to excite the sympathy of others. Are they wronged and oppressed; they are unable to plead their own cause, so as to obtain redress. Are they happy; their felicity is decreased, by an incapacity to communicate their sensations to others, making them thereby partakers of their joys. But, however, though Providence has denied them a gift with which we are endowed, yet

are they preserved from the pain and guilt, which must necessarily result from its abuse; and to which we presume, few of our readers are strangers. And do not our consciences, even now, bear witness, that if all those fragments had been collected which have been spent in light and trifling conversation, we would have no cause to complain for a want of time.

Our murdered moments cry to heaven for vengeance, that a large amount of time has been spent in unnecessary sleep! And yet the blessings of sleep are of infinite consequence to the sons of men. Whether it was required by man in Paradise we are not competent to say: that he did sleep there, none who believe the Bible can deny. However, in this present state it is absolutely necessary. It is one of those gifts which come down from above; and without which, life itself would be utterly insupportable. It is here the laborer is freed from his toil, and the weary find quiet repose. It is here the wretched forget their misfortunes, and acquire new strength to support the ills of life. Yet this good like every other, is liable to abuse, and which of us, is not conscious of having abused it. For though no particular rule can be established, it is a fact too evident to be denied, that from sleep many fragments might have been collected, without endangering the health of our bodies.

Having thus collected the fragments of time with a parsimonious hand from company, business, conversation, and sleep, let them be applied.

To the acquisition of useful knowledge, Solomon, the fame of whose wisdom every one has heard, says,