

## The Pleasant Journey.

BY MATTHEW HENRY.



BEING there are twelve things which help to make a journey pleasant, let us note something like to each of them which may be found in the way of Wisdom, and those that walk in that way.

1. It helps to make a journey pleasant to go upon a good errand.

Godly people go upon a good errand, for they go on God's errand, as well as

on their own, that are serving and glorifying Him, contributing something to His honour, and the advancement of the interests of His kingdom among men; and this makes it pleasant.

2. It helps to make a journey pleasant to have strength and ability for it. He that is weak, and sickly and lame, can find no pleasure in the pleasantest walks.

Were God's children to proceed in their own strength, they would have little pleasure in the journey, every little difficulty would foil them, and they would tire presently; but they go forth, and go on 'in the strength of the Lord God' (Ps. lxxi. 16), and upon every occasion, according to His promise, He ~~gives~~ that strength to them, and they mount up with wings like eagles, they go on with cheerfulness and alacrity, they 'run and are not weary, they walk and do not faint.' (Isa. xl. 31.)

3. It helps to make a journey pleasant to have daylight. It is very uncomfortable travelling in the night, in the black and dark night.

But Wisdom's children are all 'children of the light, and of the day.' (1 Thess. v. 5.) They 'were darkness, but are light in the Lord,' and 'walk as children of the light.' (Eph. v. 8.) Truly the light is sweet, even to one that sits still, but much more so to one that is on a journey; and doubly sweet to those that set out in the dark, as we all did. But this great light is risen upon us, not only to please our eyes, but to 'guide our feet into the paths of peace.' (Luke i. 79.)

4. It helps to make a journey pleasant to have a good guide, whose knowledge and faithfulness one can confide in.

But this is both the safety and the satisfaction of all true Christians, that they have not only the Gospel of Christ for their light, both a discovering and a directing light, but the Spirit of Christ for their guide. It is promised, that He shall 'lead them into all truth' (John xvi. 13). shall 'guide them with His eye.' (Ps. xxxii. 8),

These may go on their journey pleasantly, who are promised, that whenever they are in doubt, or in danger of mistaking, or being misled, they shall hear a voice saying to them, 'This is the way, walk ye in it.'

5. It helps to make a journey pleasant to be under a good guard or convoy, that one may travel safely.

Satan, by the world and the flesh, waylays us, and seeks to devour us; so that we could not with any pleasure go on our way if God Himself had not taken us under His special protection.

The same spirit that is a guide to these travellers, is their guard also; for whoever are 'sanctified by the Holy Ghost,' are by Him 'preserved in Jesus Christ' (Jude 1), 'preserved blameless,' and shall be 'preserved to the heavenly kingdom' (2 Tim. iv. 18), so as that they shall not be robbed of their graces and comforts, which are their evidences for, and earnest of, eternal life; they are 'kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation' (1 Peter i. 5), and therefore may go on cheerfully.

6. It helps to make a journey pleasant to have the way tracked by those that have gone before in the same road, and on the same errand. Untrodden paths are unpleasant ones.

It is pleasant to think that we are walking in the same way with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, with whom we hope shortly to sit down in the kingdom of God. How many holy, wise, good men, have governed themselves by the same rules that we govern ourselves by, with the same views, have lived by the same faith that we live by, looking for the same blessed hope, and have by it 'obtained a good report!' (Heb. xi. 2.) 'And we go forth by the footsteps of the flock.' (Cant. i. 8).

7. It helps to make a journey pleasant to have good company.

The communion of saints contributes much to the pleasantness of Wisdom's ways; we have many fellow-travellers that quicken one another by the fellowship they have 'one with another, as companions in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ.' (Rev. i. 9.)

They that travel together make one another pleasant by familiar converse; and it is the will of God that His people should by that means encourage one another, and strengthen one another's hands. 'They that feared the Lord spake often one to another.' (Mal. iii. 16.)

8. It helps to make a journey pleasant to have the way lie through green pastures and by still waters. David speaks his experience herein (Ps. xxiii. 2), that he was led into the 'green pastures,' the verdure whereof was grateful to the eye, and by the 'still waters,' whose soft and gentle murmurs were music to the ear. And he was not driven through these, but made to lie down in the midst of these delights, as Israel