

can make no appeal—be called to a strict account.

Perhaps there is nothing which we profess to value so highly, and which at the same time we waste with such utter recklessness as our time. If we squander our fortune it is within our power to make another—to regain that we have lost; but, if we lose an hour, all the energy we can exert, all the talent we can bring into play, will never enable us to replace it.

That the waste of time is an evil, all men admit, though but few regard it as a sin. That it is a sin is plainly taught in the word of God. *There* we are commanded to be diligent in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. Now an habitually idle man cannot be diligent in business, fervent in spirit, or a faithful servant of Him who went about doing good, and that which we have to do with all our might. In the life of Christ, after which we should endeavour to model our lives, we find nothing like idleness; no idle talking, no seeking his own pleasure, no shirking His duty, no unnecessary taking His own ease to the neglect of His Father's business, no selfish intrusion upon the privacy of others, or unnecessary interruption of, or interference with, the business of other people.

I do not mean to say that all recreation is sinful; far from it. Recreation is needful to keep mind and body in a healthy, working condition. I only mean to say, that our recreations must not be excessive, and must not degenerate into idleness and self-indulgence. It must be taken as medicine; not for its own sake, but as the means to accomplish a desirable end—to keep us in a fit condition to perform creditably the duties assigned by God to us.

But let us examine ourselves and see in what particulars we are guilty of idleness, of wasting our time, for we should consider that we are the stewards of God, and must render unto him an account of all things committed to us, among which things is our time. We must improve our time, and make the most of it, or we will be regarded as unprofitable servants.

When we pay visits of mere ceremony from which no good is likely to result to ourselves or others, we are guilty of idleness.

When we spend an hour or two in idle

talking about unprofitable things, about the latest fashions, or the faults, business or eccentricities of our neighbours, we sinfully waste our time.

When we spend an unnecessary amount of time and attention in decorating our persons, we waste our time.

When we pass our evenings in dancing, card-playing, or amusement seeking of any kind, from which no good results, we waste our time.

When we go to church and behave with so little reverence and attention that we come away without bringing with us any benefit of the truths there taught, we waste our time.

When we read, or listen to the reading of books which make us neither wiser nor better, we waste our time.

When we sleep and lounge about longer than nature requires us to do, we waste our time.

When we sit at table longer than is necessary, we waste our time.

Those who are in the habit of wasting their own time, set no value upon the time of other people: and keeping those idle who are disposed to be usefully employed, they do an amount of mischief, of the extent of which they have no conception. Idle people are not only useless, but they are *plagues* and hindrances to the industrious.

If we would employ in some useful manner the many hours spent by us in idleness, the amount of work we would be able to accomplish in a year, would astonish us. Let us try the experiment, and waste no more valuable time.

A YOUNG MAN'S BIBLE.

You are in a boarding-house. There is no Sunday there; there are no books there; there is no company for you there. Where shall you go? What shall you do with yourself Sunday morning? What shall you do with yourself Sunday afternoon? What shall you do with yourself Sunday night? There is a great deal of home-sickness and there is a great deal of heart-sickness on Sundays. There are a great many young men who would give everything in the world if on Sunday there was some body that cared for them, and would put an arm about them and say,