

(ORIGINAL.)

## "PRAY ALWAYS."

THESE words, though possessing all the authority of an absolute command, as proceeding from the lips of our adorable Redeemer and Lawgiver,—may yet be regarded as an affectionate advice, and as a prominent example that the law, besides being holy and just, is good: and if in any respect, in this particularly is it manifested, that in keeping of it there is great reward.

Surrounded and invested as we are with evil in our present fallen condition, we find it impossible to avoid its effects; and however desirous we may be to avoid them, our unaided efforts are wholly inadequate to accomplish our deliverance. Temptations assail us, and our passions and appetites are ready to betray us; but let us remember, and act upon, the injunction, "pray always," and we are enabled at once to resist the evil, and behold, it is gone! for we thus obtain the help of Him who is mighty to save, and strong to deliver.

Dangers, too, may threaten us—dangers which all our foresight, all our skill, and all our strength, may be unable to avert. Again let us remember the advice, "pray always," and the promise is, "Call upon me in the time of trouble, and I will deliver thee." And many are the instances on record, and many are there now living, who can testify that God is not slack concerning his promises.

Misfortunes may actually befall us—indeed, at some time or other, affliction will certainly fall to our lot. Another opportunity is thus afforded us to test the power of earnest prayer. The visitation may be such, that its removal may, humanly speaking, be impossible; but obedience to the Saviour's mandate will shew us, that "earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal."

We have wants, too, which earth cannot fulfil—desires which this world cannot gratify—aspirations which the vanities of this life but mock and delude. But here, again, we discover that "in Him all fulness dwells," and we have but to "ask and receive," that our "joy may be full."

Indeed, whatever may be the circumstances in which we are placed, we receive, in those two words, what whole volumes would fail to surpass, and which I pray these few lines may tend to enforce—"PRAY ALWAYS." C. R.

## FEMALE CHARACTERS OF SCRIPTURE.

WE cannot but be peculiarly struck with the natural and appropriate, as well as beautiful delineation of female character in Scripture. No point is overcharged—no virtue exaggerated. The portrait is the more affecting, because it is so like. It is the gentle, tender, and feeling woman whom we meet with in real life; and though the sublime situations in which she is placed, as well as the language and imagery of Scripture, invest the heroine of the Bible with a peculiar charm, she is not so highly raised above ordinary circumstances as not to provoke our sympathy, and invite our imitation. On this account, the illustrations of the sacred volume are of the highest value. The female Christian who is familiar with them, needs no other models. Besides the chasteness and simplicity which characterise these examples, there is a detail about them which is not only graphically true, but practically instructive. It is not merely by their prophetic visions and inspired songs, that we are made acquainted with the female worthies of the ancient church; we converse with them in their homes—we see them in the discharge of family and social functions—and we find, in general, that those who were the most highly honoured by divine favour, were the most blameless and amiable, according to our ideas of female excellence.—Mrs. John Sandford.

THE FOLLY OF ANGER.—To be angry, is to punish yourself for the fault of another.

## LIFE.

How few of earth's busy multitude realise the truth of holy writ—Life is but a vapour! Though friends and companions fall daily by their side, they deem their hold on life to be less brittle, or, as Dr. Young expresses it, "think all men mortal but themselves,"—and thus, full of hope and vigour, they dream of far distant years of profit and pleasure. Alas! the stupidity—the infatuation of the human heart! Though death may stare us in the face, we cannot believe the grim messenger is waiting for us. But life, at the longest, is but a shadow, and at the best, but disappointment and sorrow.—Portland Tribune.

## VALUE OF RELIGION.

THE Christian religion is admirably adapted to the wants of our natures. At no period of life—in no situation—shall we find it unwelcome to our souls. It will cheer our drooping spirits, animate our hopes, and give us an assurance of a rest in heaven.—Ib.

## The Christian Mirror.

MONTREAL, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1841.

## "THE SUMMER IS ENDED."

It is profitable occasionally to pause, and reflect upon the rapid flight of time, and upon our employment of the fleeting moments as they pass. It has been, and still continues to be, the practice of many devoted Christians, at the close of each day, strictly to examine and scrutinise their conduct, and ascertain how far they are answering the gracious design of their heavenly FATHER, in protracting their probation from day to day—how much they have done towards promoting the glory of God, both as regards their own growth in grace, and with reference to their fellow-men—and how much more they might have done, had their minds been more deeply impressed with the shortness and uncertainty of human life;—and thus, perceiving the necessity of greater diligence in their Christian course, have been led to mourn over their misspent moments, and solemnly to resolve, the Lord being their helper, to be more watchful in future over their thoughts, words, actions, and tempers.

The duty of SELF-EXAMINATION—the calling ourselves to a strict account for all the actions of our lives, comparing them with the word of God, the rule of duty, and considering how much evil we have committed, and good we have omitted—is founded on a Divine command, and ought to be attended to deliberately, frequently, impartially, diligently, and with a sincere desire to amend. The performance of this duty is essential to our improvement, our felicity, and interest. "They (says Mr. WYLBORFORCE,) who, in a crazy vessel, navigate a sea where are shoals and currents innumerable, if they would keep their course, or reach their port in safety, must carefully repair their smallest injuries, and often throw out their line, and take their observations. In the voyage of life, also, the Christian who would not make shipwreck of his faith, while he is habitually watchful and provident, must make it his express business to look into his state, and ascertain his progress."

But there are particular times which are peculiarly adapted to the profitable performance of this important duty—such as the close of summer, the termination of the common year, or the anniversary of our birth. A late number of the *Protestant and Herald* contains the following beautiful reflections on the end of summer—which we copy, not only on account of their suitableness to the present season, but also for their practical tendency:—

## THE SUMMER IS ENDED.

Another summer has passed away. In calmness and silence it departed. The moon looked on, shedding her gentle light on the city and village, field and forest, river and lake. No wild cry arose in the city or in the field; scarcely a breeze stirred on the lake or in the forest, when midnight arrived; and the months, and weeks, and days, and hours, and minutes, of the summer that is ended, flew up with their accounts on high. Their report is recorded in the book of God's remembrance. How will it affect us individually, when we too shall "fly away" to give in our account?

This is a period calculated to awake serious reflection in all—let us not fail to improve it. All nature helps to solemn thought; for nature now begins to assume a serious aspect, and from woodland, field, and garden, is calling upon us to behold her departing honours—her expiring beauties—and to prepare for our latter end.

But is there danger that the summer of grace and salvation may glide noiselessly away from any of us, like the ending of the season that is passed? There is. They who have resisted the strivings of the Holy Spirit, until He now strives with them no more—have much reason to be alarmed.

They who persist in sinful practices, contrary to the convictions of conscience, hardening themselves against the reproofs of the Almighty—have much reason to be alarmed.

They who sin presumptuously—sin against light, and with purposes of future repentance—have much reason to be alarmed.

They who are so determinately bent on sin, that the Spirit of God, their own conscience, and the ministers of the Gospel, cease to reprove them—have much reason to be alarmed.

They who relapse into evil habits, after strong convictions, and solemn vows—have much reason to be alarmed.

They who have long halted between two opinions—who are ashamed of Christ, or afraid to forsake the company of ungodly companions—have much reason to be alarmed.

To all such we would say, with affectionate earnestness, "Oh, hasten mercy to implore, or it will be to you for an everlasting lamentation—the summer is ended!"

WE have received the first number of the Thirteenth Volume of the *Christian Guardian*. It is greatly improved in appearance, being printed on paper of a beautiful texture. Its departments are increased, and the first number contains a great variety of valuable reading. We fully agree with the *Guardian*, in the sentiments contained in the following extract from an ably written article, headed "The Periodical Press of Canada," and regret that our limits deny us the pleasure of copying it entire:—

"United Canada, we conjecture, contains a population of 1,100,000, and supports, we believe, more than 50 papers of every description, having a weekly circulation of, say 40,000. Considering the small number of our inhabitants, the short time most of them have lived in the country, and the consequent limited resources they possess, we think the circulation of Canadian papers exceeds in proportion, that of the States. We say not these things in the way of disparagement; but to render honour to Canada, to whom honour is due.

"But the higher the honour, the more imperative is duty, and the heavier our responsibilities. This we know will be readily conceded by our numerous, able, and respected contemporaries. Be it, then, our purpose aright to estimate and apply the advantages of our elevation for our own personal improvement, and the improvement of the country. Be it our purpose to discharge our obligations to ourselves and the public in a spirit of wisdom, good will, and liberality: when we cannot think alike, to differ with reluctance, and always without rancour. Be the grand palladium of British Constitution;—tried, beneficent, wise, and glorious; and our reference to the institutions of other nations without invidiousness and malevolence. There dwells not on our wide earth a more friendly-hearted man than the true Briton; and, thank God, the people of our adopted country are British; and no part of the Divine law do