

for a special purpose, and of which a strict reckoning will be taken? However humble your capacity, however limited your means of improvement or usefulness, this talent you have in common with the most intellectual, or the most influential. We are desired to occupy it, to turn it to account, to make it productive in our Master's service. Which of us has done this? What can we show for it? Another marked period of time is time no longer, but has mingled with the eternal past. How has it been occupied?

1. Time is occupied when spent in the discharge of duty. Jesus occupied time when in the temple, at 12 years of age, he said to his mother, "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" Paul occupied time when, as a tent-maker, he wrought with his hands, that he might not be chargeable to the churches. Diligence in our calling, whatever that calling be, a strict attention to the duties of your situation, is such a faithful occupation of this common talent, as will be assuredly acknowledged and rewarded at the great day of inquiry.

2. Time is occupied when it is improved for the acquisition of knowledge and information. Timothy occupied that time spent in the study of the holy Scriptures in his youth. Paul, too, turned to good account in after time the days spent at the feet of Gamaliel. The missionary Williams, when an active and observing boy, delighted in the study of machinery, and this knowledge, in the distant islands of the sea, enabled him to build the "Messenger of Peace," and send her with the glad gospel news from island to island. Dr. Carey, too, while working at his humble trade, and spending all his leisure moments in the study of languages, was preparing to lay open the treasures of eternal life, in many tongues, to the idolatrous nations of India. Every new energy awakened, every acquisition gained, every difficulty mastered in the path of knowledge, is time faithfully occupied. Thin

of this when you feel weary of your task, when your expectations of success are disappointed, when you feel inclined to give up in despair, hear the voice, "Occupy till I come."

3. Time is occupied when spent in the direct service of God—in private prayer, in the study of His word, in His house. This occupation of time produces the largest harvest, and the richest return. It is the nearest thing to the occupation of eternity. When the heaven and the earth have passed away, the service of God abideth ever; and those who best enjoy this employment here, will be the best prepared to sit down in the kingdom of heaven.

Lastly, Time is occupied when spent for the good of others, in plans and undertakings of usefulness. For this, it is not needful to enter into the difficulties and trials of a missionary life. It is not necessary to have at command large resources and powerful influence; every thought of love, every act of kindness, every deed of self-denial, are alike reckoned as time faithfully occupied, and shall not lose their reward.

There was one till lately in the midst of us who, Caleb-like, followed the Lord wholly, who, Enoch like, walked with God, who proved himself a faithful servant over the ten talents committed to his charge. No employment was more congenial to the late Mr. Orr than any labor of love for the benefit of the young, and when, nine years ago, he was applied to for the benefit of his aid and experience in establishing this little magazine, so kindly and effectually was this granted, that the impulse then given has carried it on during a steady course of nine years, bearing goodly fruit, leavening the mind of the young with missionary information, and leading them to engage in such labors of love as God will assuredly bless.