

ruined to the divine image. Holiness therefore, or virtue, if you prefer the name, is regarded by the Christian as his bounden duty. And happiness he finds in holiness: it rests not in the stormy wave of passing events, nor can it be destroyed by the waywardness of human agents its place is within, its duration eternal. This pursuit of it cannot clash with the interest of others, for the more it is diffused, the larger is his share. Thus, unchained, and raised from earth, the renewed soul unites the most unreserved devotedness to the glory of God, and the most noble enthusiasm in the service of men, with an undeviating pursuit of his own best interest, his truest happiness. I never think on this subject without being reminded of the hymn,

Our pleasure and our duty,  
Tho' opposite before,  
Since we have seen His beauty,  
Are join'd to part no more.  
It is our highest pleasure,  
No less than duty's call,  
To love him beyond measure,  
And serve him with our all.

Our conversation was here ended by the unsuccessful return of Mr. G—; but not so its impression on my heart. The Saviour whom Wilson proclaimed, had thoughts of mercy towards me: the blessed Spirit deigned to strive with me, and conquer. He brought me out of darkness, and the shadow of death, and brake my iron bonds asunder; and having snatched me as a brand from the burning, he put a new song in my mouth, even thanksgiving unto my God. Wilson became my instructor, my bosom-friend, the friend of my family, who received him with joy, as the instrument of my rescue from ruin and disgrace. They know not the extent of blessedness to which he had introduced me, but they witnessed with delight my outward amendment; nor was it long before the reasonable observations, and gentle influence of our visitor, raised enquiries in their minds, unknown before. We attended with him on a truly scriptural ministry, and the gospel having been brought to each, as I humbly trust, in demonstration of the Spirit, became the power of God to our souls' salvation, I, in turn, was admitted to his domestic fire side, where a widowed mother, and two lovely sisters, found in him, not only a dutiful son and tender brother, but a substitute for the husband and father they had lost. His presence protected, his exertions assisted, his cheerfulness enlivened, and his knowledge improved the interesting group, while his pious, consistent example 'allured to heaven, and marked the way.' Lovely and serene, as the moon walking in brightness, it reflected the beams of the Sun of Righteousness.

My young friends, I had now found a noble spirit; even a spirit imparted by God himself—noble in its origin. 'I will be a father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.'—noble in its principles, owning no other motive, but free both love and gratitude: noble in its conduct, rising superior to the low aims of selfishness, expanding in benevolence to every individual of the race of man, and collecting, as in a more powerful focus, every generous affection, to pour upon its own immediate circle. Noble in its enjoyment and expectations, for their nature was spiritual, and their source and comfort, God.

And in the measure that I too was enabled to tread this blessed path, I shared my friend's felicity. Truly might it be said of me,

O wondrous victory! On the sickn'd soul  
Religion smiles, and makes the wounded whole;  
Bears the long wanderer to her blest abode,  
And rests him on the bosom of his God:  
Momentous objects now engage his view;  
His palsied energies burst forth anew.  
Importance stamps his passage to the grave,  
A God to glorify, a soul to save,  
Mankind to aid. Now duty's meanest call;  
Is noble service to the Lord of all:  
While the bright hope of immortality,  
Swells his full heart, and lights his faded eye.

That you my beloved friends, may know by experience, the blessedness of the Redeemer; that the noble, the excellent spirit of a true believer, may be imparted to you, is a request which I daily present on your behalf. With kindest remembrances to your parents and yourselves, believe me to be, very affectionately yours,  
T. W. HAMMER.

#### VALUE OF TIME.

People often waste time, because they do not know how to save it, or how to use it. The day and the year are of the same length to us all; but to look at what some contrive to do in a day or a year, one would think they had more time allowed to them than other people have, or that they know how to live without sleep. The secret is that they never waste any time; they do not pass half an hour in doing nothing; because half an hour is not an hour; and a few half hours put together almost make a day.

There are very few people now in the world who would wish you not to read and write; but some there are who would rather see you idling about, or swinging on a gate, or standing at the corner of the street, than reading a book; and these people are sure to say that you cannot find time to read the little book that is now in your hand. They fancy that if you learn to like reading, you will soon dislike to work.

These people mean well perhaps; but they are mistaken, and want better information. It is certainly not at all to be wished that you should do what would make you dislike your work; for it is plain that if you cannot earn money, you must want all that money brings. You will want food, a bed to sleep on, a house to shelter you from the weather, clothes to wear, and every comfort for yourself, for your wife, and for your children. Now, if any foolish person would wish you to read instead of working, he must teach you to live without food, and to be comfortable without a bed or a coat. You will say no one could be so foolish as to expect to do that; and you are right. Those who are anxious that you should be industrious and comfortable; and they believe that a love of reading will help to make you so. They do not wish you to read when you should be at work, but to read when, if you are not working, you are quite idle, or, perhaps, worse than idle, spending your money and your time in drinking.

You have but little time for reading. You work hard all day, and are tired when night comes. In the summer-time you take a walk in the evening round your garden, if you have one, and, perhaps, work a little in it; but when you have eaten your supper, you still pass an hour in doing nothing. In the winter, the even-

ings are dark and cold, and you sit by the fire; and then, if you have learned to read, you find amusement in looking at a book. You are even, sometimes, sorry that you have not some book to amuse you. Your wife is busy about her children; and if you have nothing to read, you doze away the whole evening by the fire. Perhaps your children are old enough to go to school, and they keep you awake until bed time; you like to know how they get on with their reading and writing; you wish you had been taught as well as they are taught; you like to hear them read to you, and you have no books that they can understand. These, and other things, show that you have a wish to read, and that, although you have not much time for reading, still you have some time—nay, many nights in a year, in which a book would be very welcome.

Nobody can be said to be at all fond of reading, who does not, now and then, like to take up a book for half an hour. The working man who has been taught to read well, and likes to hear his little boys and girls read, will be sure to give half an hour to books three or four evenings out of the seven. If you do but read half an hour, four evenings out of the seven, you will read this little book quite through, or will hear it read by your children, before another volume is ready for you.

You see, therefore, how much may be done by taking care of waste half-hours. Many will no doubt, read much more than is here supposed, but if those who read the least, will only attend to what they read, or if, when their children read it they ask them questions about it afterwards, it will be found, at the end of a year, that they know much more than they ever thought they should know; and that what they have learned has proved useful, too, on several occasions, and will be of use on many more.

This may show you that a little time well spent like a little money well laid out, may bring back a great deal of profit. Useful learning, is very much like money saved; it brings more, and it grows into a large sum; and, some day or other, it is found to be worth twenty times as much as it was thought to be worth at first.

Such are the good effects of a little time well employed: but, if time is spent at the ale-house or the gin-shop, there is double loss; nay, lost many times doubled. First, there is the loss of time; then there is the loss of money; then there is the loss of health; then there is the loss of peace and comfort at home; then there is the loss of friends; then there is the loss of work, and that brings poverty and want; and, worst of all, there is loss of your good character.

If you spend your time well, you save it, and you save your money, and you save your health; you save all the comforts you wish to enjoy; you save your wife and your little children from starvation, and cold, and beggary; and if you should fall sick, you will find you have saved your friends, because you have saved your good character.

All this may be done by taking care to save a little time every day. Time, therefore, is property; and to waste it, is extravagance.

But, perhaps, the reader may say that to read accounts of the moon and planets, and of countries and people whom he never expects to see, can be of no use to him. He may say that learned men are not always wise men; and