

half inclined to repent of his rashness. In this extremity he shut up the dwelling and went into the woods; and the best way he could, devoted himself to God, promising that if God would befriend and be his God, he would serve him all the days of his life. While he was there his father and mother returned, and missing at once the idols and the boy, they feared some spirit had come and taken them away together. As soon as they could recover themselves a little, they went to the missionary and asked him if he knew any thing about their son. He said he did not; but suspecting what had been done, he offered to accompany them and find him out. After going in various directions, they bent their steps to the wood, and there at some distance, under the shadow of a large tree, they saw the lad kneeling before God. The parents were so thankful to see him again, and to find that not a hair of his head had been hurt, that they forgot their rebukes, were persuaded to renounce their heathenish customs, and henceforth to give themselves up to the study of the Holy Scriptures. The boy, encouraged by the Divine goodness, was confirmed in his resolution to be the Lord's, and afterwards became a zealous teacher in the schools, and a teacher of the Gospel among his brethren."

Entering Life.

Your future history and character will be in great measure of your making—therefore pause and consider what you will make yourself.

What you would be in future, that begin to be at once, for the future is not at a great distance, but close at hand; the moment next to the present is the future; and the next action helps to make the future character.

While you consult your friend on every important step, which is at once your duty and your privilege, rely less upon them than upon yourself; and ever combine self-reliance with dependence

upon God, whose assistance and blessing come in the way of your own industry.

If setting out in life in the possession of property, let your dependence for success, after all, be less upon this than upon industry, it creates capital, but capital to begin with, has in many cases impaired industry, and made a man careless and improvident.

Consider the importance of the first wrong step. That first leads to many others, and may be more easily avoided than every one that follows.

True religion, which means the habitual fear of God and sin, is your best friend for th worlds; multitudes owe their all to ; and multitudes more that have been ruined by vice, folly, and extravagance, would have been saved from all this, had they lived in the fear of God.

They who would live without religion would not die without it; but to enjoy its comforts in death, we must submit to its influence in life; and they who would have it in life, should seek it in youth.

The perfection of human character consists of piety, prudence, and knowledge. Make that noble trial your own.

Whatever specious arguments infidelity may put forth in defence of itself, and whatever objections it may bring against Christianity, hold fast the Bible till the infidel can furnish you a more abundant evidence of truth—a better rule of life—a more copious source of consolation—a surer ground of hope—and a more certain and glorious prospect of immortality. And remember that spiritual religion is a better defence against the seductions of infidelity and false philosophy, than the most powerful or subtle logic.

Enter upon life as you would wish to retire from it, and spend time on earth as you would wish to spend eternity in heaven.—*John Angell James.*