

JUVENILE ENTERTAINER.

"Torquet ab obscenis jam nunc sermonibus aurem."

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THE JUVENILE ENTERTAINER

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MISCELLANEOUS.

THE TRAVELLER.

It is customary for a traveller on a lengthened
journey, to pause on the summit of a rising
ground: not only that he may breathe a little
more freely: but also that he may contemplate
more at leisure the landscape spread beneath
him, and compare its appearance when viewed
from a distance, with that which it presented as
he passed along. He often finds that such a re-
trospect sheds an entirely new aspect on the
scene. The rougher points in the landscape
have become softened by distance; the breaks in
the path have disappeared; the little spots of
verdure which only gladdened the eye at inter-
vals as he ascended, have now become united;
and that, which seemed a rugged and unfertile
slope, has become a gentle and a verdant
slope. Turning next to the road which he has
to pursue, he sees the same smiling appearance
before him; but, warned by experience, he anti-
cipates the occurrence of similar rough features
in the landscape; similar rugged and barren
tracks of country; and, though the termination
of his journey seems at no great distance, he
expects to meet with many difficulties and dis-
couragements before he reaches it.

It would be well if the traveller on the journey
of life were occasionally to make a similar pause;
and, while he looked back with pious gratitude
on the more pleasing scenes of his course, to
acknowledge with humble thankfulness even the
chastening he has received, knowing that,
"whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth," and
that though "no chastening for the present
seemeth to be joyous but grievous, nevertheless
afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righte-
ousness unto them who are exercised thereby."
Such a retrospect would enable the Christian
traveller, at least, to look forward with pious
hope, and confidence, and resignation, to that
portion of his earthly pilgrimage which is yet to
come; and he would resume his journey with
the sweet confidence expressed by the Psalmist:
"Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the
house of the Lord for ever."

There is no period at which the retrospect in
question can with more propriety be made, than
at the commencement of a new year; and I am
not without a hope that I shall prevail on many
of the readers of this Magazine to pause over
the paper which I am now writing; and to look
back on the way through which their Heavenly
Father has already led them. May they experi-
ence the aids of his Holy Spirit, to enable them
to profit by the review!

Life, my young friends, is at best but a che-
quered scene; and it would display no small igno-
rance of the dealings of God with his people,
were I to conclude that the sun of prosperity has
shone with unvarying brilliancy on the past lives
of you all. If it has done so in any case, give
God thanks; but "rejoice with trembling." It
is no proof that the Almighty Governor of the
universe loves you better than the rest of his
family, because he is pleased to smile upon all
your undertakings. He may be trying you with
prosperity, as he tries others with affliction; and
as the man whose path lies along the ridge of a
mountain, is more exposed to peril than he who
traverses the valley beneath, so your situation in
relation to spiritual things is more dangerous
than that of your less fortunate neighbours.
"Be not high minded" therefore, "but fear;"
and be ready, when yours shall be overcast,
to say, "We have received good at the hand of
God, and shall we not also receive evil?"

But it may be, my young friends, that your
path of life has been clouded; and not clouded
merely, but beset with snares and thorns.
Again I say, give God thanks. The troubles
you have met with (in so far as they have not
arisen from your own imprudence or folly) have
been meant by your Creator to convince you
that this is not your rest; and are equally calcu-
lated to call forth the expression of your grate-
ful, as the greatest temporal prosperity could
have been. "In the world ye shall have tribu-
lation," said our blessed Lord to his disciples;
"but be of good cheer; I have overcome the
world." We are thus taught that tribulation is
one part of that discipline by which our Divine
Master prepares his people for the mansions of
eternal bliss. Hence it is our duty, when visited
by affliction, to bow with pious resignation to
the Divine will; and to pray that the gracious
purpose for which we are afflicted may be fulfill-
ed. Such a frame of mind would enable us to
trace, in every painful dispensation, a new token
of our Heavenly Father's watchful care over our
souls; while, from knowing and believing that
"he doth not afflict willingly, nor grieve the
children of men," we shall be prepared to wait
the issue with humble confidence that we shall
yet have cause to sing of "mercy," as well as
of "judgment."

It is very true, my dear readers, that the
youthful spirit, accustomed to anticipate nothing
but sunshine in the journey of life, is exceedingly
apt to despond when the clouds begin to gather,
and dangers and difficulties beset his path. But
let the youth so situated seek refuge in prayer;

and he will find in that exercise the peace and
the succour which he stands in need of, and
which he will not elsewhere find. Let the sons
and the daughters of pleasure, when one source
of earthly enjoyment fails them, turn them to ano-
ther. But let the youthful Christian, under such
circumstances, turn to his Saviour; and, taught
by even his own limited experience that "man
is born unto trouble as the sparks fly upward,"
let him fix his affections on that world where
trouble is unknown. Nor let him imagine for a
moment that he will be less capable of enjoying
the present scene, because his heart is set upon
heavenly things. They, who think so, have
yet to learn what true religion is. For as the
traveller, who knows that the termination of his
journey is to be prosperous, is at once less dis-
posed to fret because of its inconveniences, and
more ready to relish its delights, than he who
knows not what is to befall him at its close,—so
the Christian who feels that his eternal all is
safe, enjoys much more happiness and peace,
even in this life, than the careless and the pro-
fane. So true is it, that "godliness is profit-
able unto all things, having the promise of the life
that now is and of that which is to come."

And now, my young friends, to turn to that
portion of the journey of life which is yet before
you, over it there hangs a cloud alike imper-
ceptible to your eyes and mine. The sum total of
man's acquaintance with that which awaits him
in the present world is comprised in these em-
phatic words of Solomon, "thou knowest not
what a day may bring forth." God, in his un-
speakable goodness, has concealed from our
view the pleasures and the pains which he pur-
poses to mingle with our future lot upon earth,
well knowing that the anticipation of temporal
happiness and misery would equally unfit us for
the improvement of the present hour. This how-
ever, we do know, that "Jesus Christ is the
same yesterday, and to day, and for ever;" and
of this also we are assured that "all things work
together for good to them that love God—to
them who are the called according to his pur-
pose." Let the consideration of these things
stimulate all of us, at the commencement of a
new year, to renew our vows to be the Lord's;
and to enter on this new portion of our earthly
pilgrimage with unabated confidence in his ever
watchful Providence. It may be that, before
the close of this opening year, some who read
these remarks may be summoned to "go the
way of all the earth;" the eye which now spar-
kles with the light of intelligence, may be closed
in death; the cheek which now glows with the
blush of modesty, may be mouldering in the
tomb; and the heart which now throbs with ge-
nerous emotion, may be mingled with the clods
of the valley. How soothing in the anticipation
of such an event, is the assurance given us by
the Apostle: "Nevertheless the foundation of
God standeth sure, having this seal, the Lord
knoweth them that are his!" And how sweet
is the intimation given us by the Apostle's Lord
and ours, that "in his Father's house are many