

when I arrive at your age I doubt not I shall begin to think on these subjects as you do; but for young people, young men in particular, there is something so unnatural and unsuitable in such sentiments, that I am always rather suspicious that there is some little hypocrisy, or at best a good deal of self-deception in the case."

"Well, certainly," returned the Rector, very gravely, "there is a great deal of fair reasoning in what you have said, and it is entitled to much consideration; as people *never die* until they are forty or fifty years of age, it never occurred to me before, how absurd it is in them to begin preparing for such an event before they have rendered themselves as unfit for it as possible, by devoting all the best years of their existence to the service of the world and its masters. To be sure, if there should happen to be any mistake in the matter, and by any unforeseen casualty such an extraordinary and unprecedented event should occur, that a young person should be called suddenly into eternity, we may easily persuade ourselves to believe that he will be admitted into everlasting happiness, in consideration of misused influence, perverted talents, disobedience, and contempt for the word and commandments of God, and a despised and slighted Saviour, or for adding insult to disobedience, and presuming to choose how much of the law of God he will adhere to, and how much he will reject. These you consider trifling responsibilities to accumulate upon your conscience in early life, and doubtless would not fear to appear before the judgment-seat of the Most High, though burdened with them all."

"You are too severe upon me, Sir," said Philip, "but I promise not to find fault again either with your sermons or your lady's teachings, if you will let me off this time."

"I have no wish to be severe," replied the Rector; "my earnest desire is, that you should learn to 'judge yourself that you be not judged.'"

"But, my dear Sir," said Philip, "if I were always to be thinking of such serious matters I should have no comfort of my life, and should be fit for nothing but a monk, or a hermit, or a Missionary. One must attend