

The following epistle from a loving pastor to one of his flock, unfolds the secret of conjugal felicity:—

“Permit a friend, Eliza dear, to write these lines to you,
While yet your morn of life is clear, and worlds of hope in view;
Remember life is but a dream—the vision of a night;
And man at best, a mere moon-beam, and changing as its light.

He may be true, but O! how oft’ deceit is in his smile;
His language may be kind and soft, while in his heart is guile.
Man’s heart by nature is most frail, and oft’ deceives itself,
And when he tells love’s pleasing tale, that love may be for self.

The fortune-hunter clothed in smiles will flatter every charm,
Till he obtains by numerous wiles, the fortune or the farm,
The hoary miser rich in gain, and boasting of his gold,
The youthful heart should still disdain, lest it be bought or sold.

The gaudy coxcomb full of airs, and peacock strutting pride,
Should still be shunned, because he bears the mark he cannot hide,
The man of meanness, worthless, low, that meanness cannot cure;
Nor can he feel the noble glow of friendship true and pure.

But why, Eliza do I roam o’er subjects all may trace,
Wherever mortals have a home or find a dwelling place?
It is, beloved, to direct your young and artless mind,
From ways of sin and wretchedness, although they seem most kind.

To place no confidence at all in happiness below,
For rich and poor, and great and small, are all the sons of woe,
Trust not in princes nor man’s son is still your duty here,
Till days of glory are begun, and you in heaven appear.

Now place thy hope in God alone, cast anchor in the vail;
And rest in Him whose dying love for ever shall prevail,—
He knew you e’er the world began, and if you love his name,
In this vain world you never can be put to any shame.

And He will guide you better far than all the world beside;
And He will be your morning star whatever may betide;
Commit thy way to Him, and seek direction from His word;
The female heart when truly meek, is guided by the Lord.

Take then the man attached to truth, and truth’s Eternal Lord,
To be the husband of thy youth; and pledge thy bridal word;
For she who does not seek the Lord, her youthful heart to guide,
Shall not be counselled by His word, nor be a happy bride.”