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THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR—REDEEMING THE TIME.

What is time? It is the narrow isthmus between the two eternities—between an eternity past, and an eternity yet future. Compared with eternity, time is a mere point in duration. Nevertheless, brief as it is, on the right use of its eternal interests are dependent. According as it is squandered or redeemed, we shall be miserable or happy for ever.

Another year has been subtracted from the brief time allotted to us, and entering, as we now are, on a new year, it is surely right that we should try to redeem the future. Many reasons urge us to this. Time is the pivot on which our eternity turns. Nothing we can do, after time is ended, can affect our interests, as what we may do in time. Much of the time already allotted to us has already passed away, and very little may yet remain. Of that little a large proportion must be spent in sleep, or may be rendered unavailable by sickness or infirmity. It is to be remembered, also, that time once lost can never be recalled. If property has been lost, it may be recovered; but an hour mispent is absolutely irrecoverable. What would the dying sinner give if he could recall a single month, or even a single day? Millions of wealth, if he had it, would he give to recall a single week. But it is beyond the power of wealth to redeem a lost hour.

But, looking to the future, how is time to be redeemed to the best advantage? The answer has been a thousand times given. Yet, let us hope, that by giving it once again, some reader may be urged to duty. Let no time, then, be spent in known sin—not a single hour, not a single moment. A moment's indiscretion may cause a life-time of misery and shame. Let no time be spent in idleness. It is as sinful to waste time as any other talent committed to our trust. Let all the time, not necessary for rest, be employed in some good work—for God, ourselves, or others. Let system be observed in the apportionment of time. Immense advantages result from the systematic allocation of particular days or hours to particular departments of work. Let the fragments of time be carefully husbanded. Many are able so to turn these to advantage, as to accomplish within them as much as others accomplish during the whole of their lives. Along with all these directions, let it not be forgotten that God's grace can alone enable us to spend our time as it ought to be spent.