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"IF I FORGET THEE, O JERUSALEM! LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET ITS GUNNING."—Ps 137, 2, 5.

### SERMON,

By the Rev. John Logan, F. R. S. E.

'Redeeming the time.'—COLOSSIANS. IV. 5.

AMONG those who have their time most at their own disposal, there prevails a maxim very different from that which is recommended in the text. The maxim of the world is, to spend time in idleness and folly, or, to speak in their own language, "to kill time" by dissipation and amusement. Life, which appears so short upon the whole, is nevertheless so long in particular parts, that vast numbers of men are overstocked with its days and hours; their time hangs heavy on their hands; they know not how to employ it, or what to make of themselves. As they have no fund of entertainment within, and for that reason no happiness at home, they naturally look out for it abroad. Hence every pastime is greedily sought after, that can banish thought and save them from their own company. Hence places of public entertainment are frequented, parties of pleasure are formed, plans of dissipation are concerted, and amusement, frivolous amusement, becomes the serious occupation of life. Only look around you into the world! Observe what policy and contrivance are continually put in practice by men, for pre-engaging every day in the week for one idleness or another; for doing nothing, or worse than nothing, and that with so much ingenuity and forecast, as scarce to leave an hour upon their hands to reproach them.

Such, my brethren, is the life of what is called the *world*, a repetition of the same childish conceptions, a perpetual round of the same trifling amusements. If you had been

sent on earth to play the fool; if your pilgrimage through life were merely a jaunt of pleasure; if it would be cruel and injurious to awaken you from the delusion. But as you profess to be Christians, and believe this life to be a state of moral discipline and probation for the next, it will be proper and reasonable to warn you of the folly of such a course, and to point out a nobler and a happier path, where at once you may see the world, and may adorn it; where at once you may improve your time, and enjoy life.

In order to this, I shall, in the *first* place, give you some directions for redeeming or improving the time; and, in the *second* place set before you the obligations to the practice of this duty.

We begin with directions for redeeming the time. In the *first* place, treasure up in your memory a store of useful knowledge, as a proper foundation of employment to the mind.

It has been the complaint of discontented men in all ages, that life is a scene of dullness, not worth a wise man's care, where the same things come over and over like a tale that is told, which, however entertaining it may appear when it is new, yet, by frequent repetition, at last becomes tedious and insipid. The consequence of which has been, that many, viewing the picture in this disagreeable light, have been inclined to throw off all serious concern about their duty, to give themselves up to habits of indolence and languor, and to make no other use of their time, but to study how to trifle it away. True it is indeed, that the days of many have thus been spent in vain; that their life has been a bar-