

I conclude this subject with the example of a pagan's son, which will shame most Christians. Pomponius Atticus, making a funeral oration at the death of his mother, did protest that, living with her three score and seven years, he was never reconciled to her ; because—take the comment with the text—there never happened between them the least jar which needed reconciliation.—*Fuller*.

HONEST LABOUR.

It is the will of God that every one should have a calling, or occupation in life ; and it is better to be the meanest workman, or day-labourer, than live in idleness. It is the duty of those whom Providence calls out to do it, "to work with their hands the thing that is good," (Eph. iv. 28.) and to be diligent in their proper business. Our Lord Jesus Christ, when he was in a private character, was far from being slothful ; and herein he hath "left us an example that we should follow his steps."

His example is peculiarly proper for the imitation of young persons, of servants and apprentices, who ought carefully to mind their proper business, and labour after skill and proficiency in their respective trades. Let them especially guard against a habit of indolence, or trifling over their work ; and employ themselves diligently in something that may turn to good account. It should be their desire and care that they may not be unnecessarily burdensome to their parents, but rather support and assist them ; being in this respect subject to their parents, as their Lord and Master was to his. Let not young persons think any honest employment too mean, or too laborious, when they reflect upon the occupation of the Son of God, who appears to have wrought at the business of a carpenter. Children delicately brought up are generally ruined for both worlds. If habits of diligence and self-denial are not early contracted, they are seldom or never obtained. Thus so many persons become the burdens of society, and are ready to do any wicked or mean thing to support themselves, because they have never been used to labour and endure hardship. I have often, says Dr. Watts, pitied the descendants of honourable families, of both sexes, the unhappiness of whose education has given them nothing to do, nor taught them to employ their hands or their minds. Therefore they spend their hours in sauntering, not knowing whither to go, or what to do. Hence they often give themselves up to mean and scandalous play, spending their hours in chatting and merriment. They make the business of their dress the study and labour of half the day ; and spend the rest in trifling discourse and laughter, scattering jests upon their neighbours and acquaintance. All these instances of folly and immorality would be rectified, if they would find out some daily and proper business to be employed in. Solomon, at his leisure hours, studied natural and moral philosophy.