

of the Christian. His pleasure is not expensive. A little goes a great way with him, and the more of Christ he knows the more does he learn to use His body as a temple of the Holy Ghost, his intellect as an instrument of serving God and his will in choosing to run in the way of the divine commands. His faith brightens his mental powers, not at first, indeed, but through the stimulating influence of the truths which he believes. His love strengthens his will, and his steadfastness in well-doing softens the sensibility of his conscience, making it as quick to the presence of evil as the apple of the eye is to the least particle of dust. Christian faith indeed will not make a genius out of a dullard; but it will make the man nobler, physically and mentally as well as morally, then without it he would have been. So far from wasting his energies, it economizes them, and hales them all with the joys of its own happiness. Perhaps you imagine I have overdrawn the contrast! Let me, therefore, fortify my assertion by a suggestive contrast taken from real life, and that you may have every justice I summon to testify for you one who had ample riches at his command, who wore the coronet of a peer, and who beside was dowered with heaven's own gift of brilliant genius which secured him world-wide renown. He had everything the world could give, and yet ere he had finished his thirty-seventh year, he wrote thus of himself:

My days are in the yellow leaf,  
The flower, the fruit of life are gone;  
The worm, the canker, and the grief  
Are mine alone.

Now, on the other side, let me call an English non-conformist minister in the time of his age. He was gifted with an eloquence which has rarely been equalled and endowed with loftiness of intellect that enabled him to grapple with the mightiest themes, but all through life he was a martyr to the most distressing physical anguish, so that he had scarcely a moment that was free from excruciating pain. Yet amid all this he contrived to put into his career some of the noblest work which his generation saw,

and he had a quiet happiness, and sometimes even a brimming humor, that were quite remarkable. Returning in his later days from spending the evening with some friends, his daughter said to him, "Father, you did not enjoy yourself much to-night, I fear." "Yes," was the reply, "I enjoy everything. I enjoy everything;" and no man who knew Robert Hall, could doubt that he spoke the truth. Here again, then, my dear friend, I place before you the materials for coming to a decision on this great question. If you wish your lives to resemble the course of the sun, rising in beauty, going forth in power, and shining more and more into the perfect day; if you would have your death resemble His setting; if, like him, you would go down in a sea of glory and set only to shine on in the firmament of the world beyond, then cling to the Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ and cultivate that soberness of mind which He enjoys; but if you desire to waste your strength, to paralyze your intellect, and to destroy your soul eternally, you will give yourself to the constant pursuit of "the pleasures of sin." There was once a king in Jerusalem who sounded every "depth and shoal" of pleasure, and drank the cup of human joy. If there be any element of permanent satisfaction in life apart from God, he might have found it, for with every possible advantage he made a deliberate search after it, and still returned with this melancholy result: "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity and veration of spirit." Listen to him, my young hearer, if you will not hear-ken unto me: listen to him, as, worn and weary and wounded too, from his lifelong pursuit, he cries back to you, half in mocking agony, and half in deep, painful solemn earnestness: "Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth, and let thy heart cheer thee in the day of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart and in the sight of thine eyes, BUT KNOW THAT FOR ALL THESE THINGS GOD WILL BRING THEE INTO JUDGEMENT WITH HIM."

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THE Synod of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland began its annual meeting May 13th, at Edinburgh.