

brethren the children of Israel. The Spirit of God leads the sons of God. Without this drawing towards what is to be done, we fail to see the aptitude of the worker. Where sympathy is wanting, there an essential element of success is left out. Heart must join with hand to achieve any great work. Ability or the possession of means, is the land. Talents are to be employed. What God has given will be required. It is a temptation to view ourselves as unfit when the Lord hath need of us. Opportunity is providence. Finding an open door we are to enter. That may come unexpectedly, as the Good Samaritan right in his path found the half-murdered traveller. Further, cases are to be sought out. Forms of aggressive benevolence should be brought to the birth. A high practical power is the product of true religion.

All work that is worth doing should be done with spirit. With thy might, says the wise man. Put the heart into it. This implies an earnestness which will not rest without gaining its object. See how men of the world act. There is startling power in the words of the prize fighter though in a disgraceful cause—I am willing to lose all my money, and to have ten years taken from my life, if so be that I may win the fight. How much of this spirit of determination is seen in the pursuit of eternal life? The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence and the violent take it by force. Agonize to enter in at the strait gate. A wrong application of power may work serious evils, causing delay and defeat. Take knowledge and wisdom for direction, and call on God for strength.

The time for working is passing away. Work while it is called to day, the night cometh when no man can work. The time for action is now. To-morrow is an unknown birth. Work is better done when taken in hand early, than left to the last moment. Let youth consider that man goeth forth to labour in the morning. The working day may be very short. All are hastening to the grave, and there, there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom. In regard to God's work, and the great ends wrought for by the soul of man, nothing can be done there. It is too late to repent, it is too late to do anything for souls. Offers are made to sinners now. Seek the Lord while he may be found. Death puts an end to all probation. As the tree falleth so it lies. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, they rest from their labours and their works do follow them. Going to the grave is not alarming to those who have been about their Father's business, who have finished their work, to them it becomes a bed of peaceful rest. Since every individual's work is to be done in season, let the opening year find all abounding in the work of the Lord.

WINTER.

The seasons of the year are highly suggestive. Various references to them are found in the sacred volume. From age to age they have doubtless supplied to multitudes of people, many pleasing and quickening impressions, interesting analogies of thought, and trains of meditation at once gratifying to the mind, and of practical value.

To their influence, poets and other authors, ancient and modern, have yielded their finer faculties, and thereby enriched their associations of thought, feeling and imagination. Thomson's Hymn on the Seasons—so beautiful throughout and in some parts so truly sublime—commences in the following strain :—