

## RELIGIOUS MAXIMS.

## V.

Be not disheartened because the eye of the world is constantly and earnestly fixed upon you to detect your errors, and to rejoice in your halting. But rather regard this state of things, trying as they may be, as one of the safeguards which a kind Father has placed around you, to keep alive in your own bosoms an antagonist spirit of watchfulness, and to prevent those very mistakes and transgressions which your enemies eagerly anticipate.—*Upham.*

## VI.

Do not think it strange when troubles and persecutions come upon you. Rather receive them quietly and thankfully, as coming from a Father's hand. Yea happy are ye, if, in the exercise of faith, you can look above the earthly instrumentality, above the selfishness and malice of men, to Him who has permitted them for your good. Thus persecuted they the Saviour and the prophets.—*U.*

## VII.

"Be angry and sin not." The life of our Saviour, as well as the precepts of the apostles, clearly teaches us that there may be occasions on which we may have feelings of displeasure, and even of anger, without sin. Sin does not necessarily attach to anger, considered in its nature, but in its degree. Nevertheless, anger seldom exists in fact, without becoming, in its measurement inordinate and excessive. Hence it is important to watch against it, lest we be led into transgression. Make it a rule, therefore, never to give any outward expressions to angry feelings, (a course which will operate as a powerful check upon this excessive action,) until you make them the subject of reflection and prayer. And thus you may hope to be kept.—*U.*

**VANITY IN DRESS.**—We have sometimes hesitated whether to call vanity in dress a *sin* or a *sign*. We will explain our meaning by an anecdote. Some young ladies, feeling themselves aggrieved by the severity with which their friends animadverted on their gay plumes, necklaces, flounces, artificials, &c., went to their pastor to learn his opinion. "Do you think," said they, "that there can be any impropriety in wearing these things?" "By no means," was the prompt reply. "When the hearer is full of ridiculous notions, it is perfectly proper to hang out the sign."

The pastor took a right view of the matter. These outward ornaments are the *signs* of the "ridiculous notions" within; and until these notions are crowded out by the mighty power of the gospel entering into the soul and filling it with nobler ideas of love towards God and man, we shall have but little success in our endeavours to reform the external person.

To carry out the idea of plumes—when a young lady's mind comes to be filled with the high and glorious objects of contemplation and pursuit which the gospel brings to the soul, she will naturally shed her gay plumage, as we see certain birds in the spring of the year. Her gaudy ornaments will fall off without a struggle. But if one pluck them off by main force, we shall produce a great outcry, and our work will be in vain: for they will soon grow again.—*Christian Citizen.*