

him. We wonder not that some fly to strong drink, and others to self-destruction. My dear friend, seek the poor man's God, look to the poor man's Saviour, read the poor man's book, pray for the poor man's comforter (the Holy Spirit), and so will you arrive safely at the poor man's home, where toil, trouble, disappointment, perplexity, sin nor sorrow, can never come.

"BE CAREFUL TO ENTERTAIN STRANGERS."

From the New-York Recorder.

A sailor boy having returned from sea to spend a few weeks with his pious mother, was earnestly requested by her to attend Sunday-school during his time of leisure on the land. Though not well pleased with such a proposition, he however from a wish to gratify his mother, consented. Accordingly on the next Sabbath, he took his stand at the door of an evangelical church, hoping that the superintendent or one of the teachers would invite him in. To his great mortification they all passed him, and the time had arrived for opening the school; hearing singing he ventured to go within the door, and there, with his cap under his arm, he stood until the singing and prayer were over. Poor Jack, but for the promise made to his mother, would have left, not to have returned. At length the superintendent called out, "There is a sailor boy, who will take him?" All eyes were turned towards the young son of the Ocean, but no one seemed anxious to take him into his class. A lady, with the smile of benevolence, said, "I will take him." with a number of young ladies, Jack was soon seated as a pupil. Having ascertained that his time with her, would be short, his teacher put him at the top of the class, and devoted the most of her time for the benefit of her new scholar. The time arrived when our sailor boy must leave home, and the teacher to whom he had become much attached, by her he had been taught, *under God*, that he needed salvation, and through her instructions he had been taught to seek an interest in the Saviour. To the joy of his pious mother and devoted teacher, he went to sea a *praying sailor*?

THE LIBERTY OF MARRIAGE.

"She is at liberty to be married to whom she will, only in the Lord."—1 Cor. vii. 39.

"Marriage is honourable in all;" but the christian should marry, *may* marry, *only in the Lord*. This is the law of Jesus Christ. He is our Master, how shall we dare to break his commands?

If you marry in the Lord, you secure the council and guidance of your Heavenly Father. If in any thing whatsoever you need wise advice, surely it is when you select the partner of your life. Your happiness depends upon your choice. Mark

the promises of God which are suitable to your case. "In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct thy path." "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not, and *it shall be given him*." How sweet to feel that in your choice you are guided by God, and in your union are blessed with his approbation! What a comfort in any trouble that may arise, to feel, this is the Lord's dealing; He will deliver me. But how could you ask God to bless you in marrying an unbeliever,—to *bless you in breaking His law*? Surely even an impious man would not venture to offer such a prayer! How painful to know, even on your wedding-day, that Jesus turns from you wounded and displeased! And, whatever trials may overtake you in after life, you cannot ask your Saviour to pity you. You violated his law,—you must expect trouble; it is the fruit of your sin. Your comfort is destroyed.

If you marry an unbeliever, you slight Christ your Saviour. If you are, indeed, a christian, God is your best friend, and Christ the object of your supreme regard. You love him with all your heart and strength, for he loved you, and gave himself for you. How, then, can you love one averse from or indifferent to your Saviour? How can you press to your heart one that loves not your God? If Jesus could say to his friends, "He that receiveth you receiveth me," would he not also say, he that loveth my despisers and neglecters cannot love me?

If you marry an unbeliever, there can be no christian sympathy between you. True you will feel one with each other in the things of this life, but not in the things that make for your eternal peace. You will blend your joys, and divide your sorrows, that rise from this world; but in relation to the world that is infinitely more important than this, you will not have a single feeling in common. Your mind may be darkened by clouds of doubt, but you cannot tell *him* of your fears. You may rejoice in the Lord, but you cannot tell your partner of your gladness. He lives for this world, you live for Christ. His portion is in this life, your inheritance is in heaven. You love to speak of that Saviour who bought you with his blood, and with whom you will dwell in heaven, but your husband will not listen. "What communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an unbeliever?"

An unbeliever cannot comfort you in trial and sickness. He may perform every kind office with fondest attention, and hang over you with a bleeding heart, but these are not all you will need in that hour. You will ask for an affectionate prayer, and words of sweet consolation. From no one would these spiritual aids be so comforting, as from him who is dearest to your heart.

But, alas, he cannot pray! He has no God upon whom he can call for even *you*; and the precious promises of the Bible, even if he were to whisper them for your solace, would freeze upon his lips. Your last hour draws nigh. No hope of meeting him in heaven supports you, as your lips quiver the last farewell. Your last moments are disturbed by the thought, "We part forever." You wing your way to bliss, but you leave him.

Think of the difficulty, if God should bless you with children. How will you train them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, when the head of the house gives no weight to your pious example, and the father cannot pray with his child? And, think, if you should be called home, your children will be left without any one to train them up in the way they should go, and having no one to care for their souls, they may perish in sin.

If you neglect the command of Christ to marry "only in the Lord," you will greatly injure your own soul. "Be not deceived, evil communications corrupt good manners." Companionship with the ungodly, under any circumstances, taints the feelings and weakens the spirituality of the mind; but when you constantly associate with unbelievers, and love them too, as is the case in the conjugal state, the effect must be doubly mischievous. We so rapidly assimilate to those whom we love, that we soon change from the beauty and lustre of piety to dulness and deformity. Solomon, the wisest of men, became a gross idolator through the influence of wicked wives. Thousands who once "walked with God," have departed from the way of holiness, where the sunshine of God's favour fills every heart with joy, and have wandered in darkness and perplexity, and died in doubt, through the influence of an ungodly partner. Rely upon it, the path of obedience is the path of peace. "Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He in whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the Lord."

THE WORDS OF JESUS.

BY A WORKING MAN.

"And they remembered his words."—Luke xxiv. 8.

Who can wonder that the words of Jesus Christ should be remembered? It would be a wonder if they should ever be forgotten. Those now referred to, were farewell words, and the farewell words of friends are generally tender and impressive; they are long remembered, and never fail to call up the image of our absent friend, and revive our affections. But the last words of a dying friend remain indelibly fixed in our hearts. They follow us through all the changing scenes of life, awaken to a