

A
SERIOUS ADDRESS

TO

YOUTH.

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A Present from the Sunday School.  
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LONDON :

PRINTED BY J. AND C. EVANS,

Long Lane, W. Smithfield.

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FRONTISPIECE.



'Tis Religion that can give
Sweetest pleasures while we live;
'Tis Religion must supply
Solid comfort when we die.

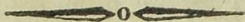
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SERIOUS
ADDRESS TO YOUTH.



My young Friend,

SUFFER me to address myself,
as one having your best interest,
and your eternal welfare and hap-
piness at heart ; suffer me to address

you as one departing from this world, to those who must shortly follow. And while I intreat you, as you value your soul, to give me a serious hearing, may the Holy Spirit incline you first to fall upon your knees beseeching God to enlighten your dark understanding; and to implore his aid in the perusal of the following lines:—

“Remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth.” (Eccles. xii. 1.) What is meant by those words?—Surely there must be something in them, which as yet you have not duly considered; they are not left upon divine record, to be slightly passed over, as words of no impor-

tance; then let me persuade you to reflect on the passage before you.—Perhaps you have never thought seriously of Him who gave you breath, and who may this day take it from you—awful then must be your case. You are really in open rebellion against God—under the law, children of wrath; and, while in a state of nature, in a state of unbelief, which is the worst of all sins, for “he that believeth not shall be damned.” Your sins are already numerous, and depend upon it, if not washed in the blood of the Lamb, they will, at the day of judgment, sink you deep in everlasting misery.

“Remember then thy Creator,” ere it be too late, who now kindly invites you to come, and reasons with you, saying, “Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.” (Isaiah i. 18.)—Attend to his kind invitation. Do you feel secretly inclined to turn unto the Lord? It is the Spirit’s operation. O do not smother it—improve the favourable moment—it may never return.—Cry unto the Lord, and he will deliver you, none ever came unto him and went away disappointed!

Consider what a merciful, though a just God, you have to deal with;

he is not only merciful in preserving you to the present day, and withholding the hand of divine justice from plunging you into the lowest depths of misery : but he is merciful beyond expression, in offering you a free pardon for all your sins, through the merits of Christ's atoning blood ; a pardon whereby you will be enabled to stand at the day of judgment, clad in the robe of the righteousness of Jesus Christ. But how different the scene, should you still continue to reject God ; if you are determined, notwithstanding the awful denunciation of his anger, and the almost irresistible power of his inviting love, still to

persevere in iniquity, still to wallow in sin and filthiness : how will you be able to meet relentless death ?— and with what horror will your affrighted soul shrink back from an unavoidable, and what is still more awful, a never-ending eternity ?— O solemn, dreadful thought ! Perhaps many of you may have read (though not with considerate solemnity) the following lines of Dr. Watts :—

“ What horror seize the guilty soul
Upon a dying bed !

Lingering about these mortal shores,
She makes a long delay,
Till, like a flood of rapid force,
Death sweeps the wretch away.

Then swift and dreadful she descends
 Down to the fiery coasts,
 Amongst abominable fiends,
 Herself a frightened ghost."

Hard and impenetrable indeed is the heart that shudders not at those lines.—Reflect, my child, "thy soul this night," (Luke xii. 20.) may "be required of thee;" and hast thou "set thine house in order?" (Isa. xxxviii. 1.) are all things prepared? art thou ready to give an account of the things done in the body, before the awful tribunal of heaven?

King Hezekiah, a favourite with God, who continually lived in his love and fear, and forgot him not,

required a solemn warning in order to prepare him for the great and everlasting change, and shall not you that have lived in destructive forgetfulness to the present moment, require some friendly admonition? Consider that what I shall now tell you is such, and know this, that I shall be clear of your blood, should you still persist in sin to your own destruction.

“Blessed are they who flee all youthful lusts,” (2 Tim. ii. 22.) and give themselves up entirely to Jesus Christ to be made like him, to be new formed in the gospel mould. O what an infinite blessing is it to die in the Lord, firmly relying on

his precious promises, offered to the vilest sinners! And will you be so slow to receive salvation? can you, while our blessed Saviour is saying, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God.—(Luke xviii. 16.) Can you, regardless of his kind invitation, still live without embracing the call of his almighty love!—Can you refrain from crying out in bitterness of soul, O ever blessed Jesus, shall I hear the voice of thy pitying love, and attend not? shall my proud heart still remain untouched?—Take it, O my Saviour, vile and hard as it is, I would resign it to

thee, do thou be the sole possessor of it. Refuse it not, O Lord, I beseech thee, take it—purify it—and may this ever be its language,—“Draw me and I will run after thee.” (Cant. i. 4.) O, how would the blessed Jesus rejoice at hearing such words as these from your lips! such is his all-forgiving temper! such is his wonderful condescension and mercy!

Young Samuel—Josiah—and Timothy, were all eminent servants of God, who never repented bearing the “yoke of religion in their youth,” (Lam. iii. 27.) and are now among the blessed in heaven, celebrating the praises of the Lamb!

It is also recorded in Scripture,—that “out of the mouth of babes and sucklings shall come forth praise.” Will you then ungratefully keep back your youthful Hosannas? will you forget to render to Almighty God the tribute of your tongue? O no! I am rather persuaded that this solemn admonition, will leave some happy impression on your tender mind:—will awaken in you a desire to die the death of the righteous, and will eventually lead you to the loving embraces of Jesus Christ, May this be your happiness!—and rest assured that “God loves them that love him, and those that seek him early, shall find him.” [FINIS.]

