

Love one another, do all things without murmurings and disputing, always be at peace amongst yourselves, live near to the Lord, and then when you are called to appear before him, you will not be afraid, but will love his appearance, and will be accepted by him.

Do not neglect your morning and evening devotional exercises. Be much at your Bible; let that blessed book be a light to your feet, and a lamp to your path. Remember you are now in the vigour of youth, and are surrounded with temptations of every kind adapted to the carnal mind; you have great need to mount a double guard, constantly watch and pray, that you enter not into temptation. I advise you, as a parent and a minister, to read frequently the 1st, 2nd, 3d, 4th, and 5th chapters of Proverbs; these, properly considered, will guard you against many snares and foolish and hurtful lusts into which young men are prone to fall.

You may be assured, that if you seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, all other things will be added unto you; pray for humility, prudence, diligence, and piety, and be as desirous to grow in the favour of God as in the favour of men; remember what Dr. Watts says,

“Were I possessor of the earth,
And called the stars my own,
Without thy graces and thyself,
I were a wretch undone.”

I hope you remember the Sabbath day and reverence it; read the Bible frequently, and recollect there is a throne of grace for every poor sinner to approach, and forgiveness with God through Jesus Christ, and that this remission is full, free, and everlasting.

Avoid the vicious. I hope you can adopt the language of the patriarch: “My soul, come not thou into their place; mine honour, be not thou united unto them; their lives are madness, and their end perdition.” Nothing can make human beings miserable but vice; nothing can make them happy but holiness. The wise shall inherit glory, but shame shall be the promotion of irreligious and incorrigible fools. Now, my son, take the advice of 1 Chron. xxviii. 9, and then you will do well for both worlds; but if you pursue an opposite conduct, you will never make any great figure in this world,

and you will forfeit your crown in the coming state.

Never neglect the means of grace; attention to these is as necessary to our growth in knowledge, faith, comfort, and holiness, as it is for the farmer to manure, plough, and sow his land, in order to raise a crop.

I should be thankful to see you once more in the flesh, if it be the Lord's will; if not, my dear son, live near to the Lord, and then we shall meet in another and a better world.

May you escape those snares that Satan, the world, and the flesh, are constantly laying for your soul. I am continually praying for you, and I have strong hopes that my prayers will for this be answered, if you connect your own with them.

Diligence, faith, prayer, and patience, will perform great things: when you pray, take the promises of God and the sacrifice of Christ with you to the throne of grace, and you are sure to meet with an answer.

ORPHANUS.

BOOKS FOR CHINA.

To the Editor.

SIR,

I HAVE recently been reading a part of the late Dr. Milne's “Retrospect of the first ten years of the Protestant Mission to China,” and I was much struck with his remarks upon the subject of furnishing the people of that extensive empire with books. The following are his words:

“Books are universally understood—they travel every where; with proper agents, and due caution, they may be poured into China itself. Knowledge and science are the handmaids of religion, and may become the auxiliaries of virtue. To rouse the dormant powers of a people, whose mental energies are bound up by that dull and insipid monotony, which has drawn out its uniform line over them to the length of more than twenty hundred years, will be no easy task. Means of all justifiable kinds, labours of every variety of talent, resources for the most expensive moral enterprises, and a space of several ages, will all be necessary to do this effectually. *But a beginning must be made by some people, and in some age of the world; after generations will improve on what*

the present race of men begin. It is better, therefore, to commence a good work with very feeble means and imperfect agents, than to 'sigh to the wind,' and not attempt it at all."

In confirmation of the above remarks, permit me to add an extract from the valuable Sermon which Dr. Morrison preached, last May, on behalf of the London Missionary Society:

"For the reading population of mankind, let the Press be extensively employed. Knowledge thus conveyed can be scattered more widely than by living teachers. It can penetrate the palaces of kings and governors, as well as the studies of the learned, and the hamlets of the poor, to whom in some lands no foreigner is permitted admission. Knowledge conveyed in this way is more durable than that communicated by the living voice, and is more certain than that of tradition; and it remains as a witness for God, like the book of the law which Moses wrote, and king Josiah found 800 years after, and by which he was induced to cast down the idols of the land. *Fill the earth with the Bible, and Christian books, in all the languages of all the nations, and you will fill the world with the knowledge of Christ.* And then the Holy Spirit's influences will have that on which to operate, and to carry conviction to the hearts of men; and will say, as the voice which spoke to St. Augustine did, 'Take up and read;' and light will break in on the understanding, and doubts will vanish, and decision of character, to be on the Lord's side, will take place. Now there are hundreds of millions in Eastern Asia, spread over divers countries, who read one and the same language; but they have little other than pagan books to read. Oh, what a field of labour is there among the Chinese-language nations for the Christian literati of Europe and of America! Oh, when will these literate Christian men exchange their cry, What can I get—for, what can I give! a speech much more befitting the responsible disciples and servants of the Giver of every good. It is, we believe, practicable for the men of literature and leisure in this country, without quitting their houses, to compose books for the instruction of those who inhabit Corea or Japan, and to qualify agents to go forth to distribute and explain them. I set not up one means against another,

but assert that filling the world with the excellent knowledge of Christ, by any means, is obedience to the Saviour's precept, to proclaim or preach the gospel among all nations. It is the *gospel*; the *knowledge* communicated by Christ, and the knowledge of Christ's mediatorial work, which constitute the grand instrument of converting and blessing the nations; but the means of conveying that knowledge, or the channel through which the waters of life flow, is a mere circumstance."

If the opinions of two such missionaries are worthy of notice (and I presume no one will question that point,) would it not be well for British Christians to commence without delay the important work of endeavouring to diffuse knowledge in this way, through the vast kingdom of China? Indeed, if we know the way, if the door be open, how can we stand excused if we do not immediately make an effort to accomplish so mighty a work? Two hundred millions of souls are destitute of divine truth, and the means are in our power of furnishing them with the outlines of the gospel of salvation. Could not *Tracts* be immediately written, and the *Press* be set to work, for this important object; and surely funds might soon be raised for so noble a purpose. In addition to this hint, I would freely give my guinea annually, and it is only for the object to be known, and no person who considers the value of *one* soul would withhold his aid from two hundred millions of souls.

I consider that Dr. Morrison has rendered an essential service to the cause not only of missions, but of religion in general, by the preaching and publishing of his sermon: I should rejoice to see it in every person's hand, and I think the churches of Christ would then be more disposed to assist in promoting the cause of truth; that ministers would be more willing to urge their useful members forward to the help of the Lord; and that private Christians would more clearly see that whatever talent they possess, it is their duty to devote that talent to the service of the Redeemer. If the above remarks are suitable for your publication, I shall be happy to see them inserted, in the hope of finding the subject more suitably treated by others, and at length carried into effect. Yours truly,

PARVUS.