

"When is the best, perhaps the only time, to begin a religious life?"

Surely the season of youth is the best time to begin a religious life, before we become attached to the follies of this vain, transient, fleeting world, when the heart is susceptible of every good impression, can we choose a time which will be more acceptable to devote ourselves to God? And Saviour says "Suffer little children to come unto me, for such is the kingdom of heaven", "I have them that have me: and those that seek me early shall find me." With these promises, have not the young peculiar privileges? they by early embracing religion, feel the insignificance of this life with life's fragility: their hopes are fixed on heaven, that blessed region of immortality, to which their souls are constantly aspiring and looking forward to that hour when they shall receive the welcome summons to stand before the Tribunal of a just and merciful God. Oh! with what unspeakable delight will they listen to must they be listening to the voice of our Saviour, speaking in words of heavenly consolation: "Come ye blessed of my Father inherit the kingdom prepared for you."

"Heaven lifts its ever-lasting portals high  
And bids the pure in heart, behold their God."

The present time is also the best for repentance, "to day if ye will hear my voice, harden not your hearts." Why should we delay it, why should we defer our happiness? why should we delay acknowledging our Redeemer? What sacrifices did he not make for us? All the miseries which the depravity of the human heart could suggest were inflicted on him, he suffered and died for them with patient resignation to save our souls from eternal condemnation. Oh! what unbelief of incredulity, and even we for an moment hesitate in giving ourselves to him who endured so much for us. Will it not give pleasure to our earthly friends? how much more will it please our heavenly Father and our Saviour, if we kneel at the throne of grace in humble penitence, "Seek me and ye shall find me, knock and it shall be opened unto you; after these repeated assurances of mercy shall we not hope for salvation? Let us reflect on the enviable happiness we shall be partakers of if we choose this straight and narrow way which leads to life eternal. If we follow the path of righteousness and walk in the ways of wisdom we shall be admitted into that heavenly Jerusalem where angels and archangels bow before their God, where thousands of Seraphims sing his wondrous praises, let us compare this with the torments of that place where their never-dying fire is never quenched, and among all unite in saying "Behold now is the accepted time behold now is the day of salvation."

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