

~~January 7<sup>th</sup>~~

No. 20

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The pleasures of the missionary, which he will  
enjoy through the performance of his work.  
The pleasures of the missionary are the happy fruits  
which he will receive on account of fidelity in this im-  
portant office. We know that the world is ready to  
account those weak and enthusiastic who abound  
in the exercise of spiritual duties; but there  
is nothing in the universe that accords more with  
the dictates of reason, than such a state. If God  
therefore have not given us sufficient inducements to love  
and serve him, then we may doubt whether the supreme  
affection of our souls would be due to him. God has  
been pleased to give the glorious Gospel truth such  
a powerful influence upon the human mind, that  
their lives are often quickly reformed, without spending  
time in repeated harangues upon external duties;  
happy experience, as well as the word of God, and the example  
given by Christ and his apostles teach us, that the preaching  
which is suited to awaken mankind and to awaken a lively  
apprehension of their depravity and misery, to excite them  
earnestly to seek after a change of heart, and to fly for  
refuge to Christ as the only hope set before them, is likely  
to be most successful toward the reformation of their external  
conduct. It is true a person going forth as a missionary  
in this righteous cause will meet with many difficulties,  
but if we look hence how the apostles traveled as

Missionaries and rejoice in this glorious office in which they labour for the Redeemers Kingdom, as St. Paul says for I know on whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. For we said he to live is Christ, and to die is gain. I am in a strait betwixt two; having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ, which is far better; and hereby we can see how to form the best idea of heaven of which we are capable in our present state. To be with Christ, and to behold his glory, is a just idea of heaven; it must be so, for it is the idea which Christ himself gives us of it. Let us not then be content to think of heaven as a state of mere exemption from trouble, much less as a place of sensual delight, as Mohammed taught; but as a condition of perfect holiness and supreme felicity in the presence of the Lamb, and in the vision of his glory; And this may also enable us to form some judgment of our state towards God, and whether we are at least to enter into that secret which is prepared for the people of God. The sincere Christian has many and anxious thoughts on this head; which while the presumptuous sinner and the cold formalist seldom entertain a doubt. Does he long to behold more & more of it?

and does the glance he obtains transform him in some degree into the same glory? Then he has reason to hope, that he is interested in his prayer; and if so he shall certainly be with him where he is, and behold his glory without a veil. This is the happiness which a missionary has, as a faithful servant; but on the other hand, here is nothing to countenance the vain hope of a carnal man. He who sees no glory in Jesus here, is not in the way to behold it hereafter; and it is certain, that the person who neglects his Gospel, disregards his words wilfully, is ignorant of his truth, and dislikes his ~~own~~ people, shuns his ordinances, and has never once discerned the glory of the Redeemer. He who loves the sin that Christ abhors, and hates the holiness that Jesus loves, cannot, in this state entertain any Scriptural hope of heaven. No he must be washed; he must be justified, in the name of the Lord Jesus; he must be sanctified by the Spirit of our God, or he can never enter into the Kingdom of glory. This representation of the love of Christ is well calculated to excite our love to him. After having laid down his life for us, after ascending into heaven for us, after having called us by his grace, he pleads for our company, and will not be satisfied without having us with him.

O, what marvellous love is this! and it surely demands a return of affection to him. Can we do any thing for him on earth? Let us do it gladly. Can we suffer any thing for him below? Let us bear it joyfully. And let us not cleave to the earth too much. If he wills that we should be with him, is it not fit that we should be willing, yea, desirous of leaving all for that purpose? But how amazing it is that a man living, who knows that he must die, should notwithstanding put far away the evil day, in a season of health and prosperity, and live at such an awful distance from the grave, and the great concerns beyond it! And especially that any whose minds have been divinely enlightened, to be hold the important things of eternity, should live in this manner! And how frequently is this the case? How rare are the instances of those who live and act, from day to day, as on the verge of eternity! how few are striving to fill up all their remaining moments in the service, and to the honor of their great Master, for we insensibly trifle away time even while we complain of its shortness, and are so strangely infatuated, often in a great measure, to lose a sense of the holiness necessary, to prepare us to be inhabitants of the heavenly paradise; And O how little do we often converse when we meet together! about those things which mutually concern & should be interesting to us.

The visits, even of those who are called Christians indeed, are frequently quite barren; and conscience cannot but condemn us for the misemployment of time, while we have been conversing with them. But the way to enjoy the divine presence, and be fitted for his service is to live a life of great devotion and constant self-dedication to him; observing the motions and dispositions of our own hearts, whence we may learn the corruptions that lodge there, and our constant need of help from God, for the performance of the least duty. For this end was Christ born and came in to the world, that he might bear witness to the truth. And every one that is of the truth heareth his voice. A nobler object no human or angelic mind could ever propose to itself, than to promote the glory of the great Governor of the universe, in studying and laboring to diffuse purity and happiness among his unholy and miserable creatures. To pursue this object with unwearied and unchangeable firmness, to make thought, wish, and action to enter in it, and to suffer the greatest hardships rather ~~rather~~ than for one moment to abandon it, displays an elevation of character which excites in the beholder, the profoundest reverence. But it is motive which is weighty in the eye of heavens. And who shall impeach the motive of a man who endured all his afflictions, who encountered all his difficulties in the promotion

of a cause which the world despises, and in opposition to ambition, the love of wealth, the love of ease, and passion for fame. Take away these stimuli from the little creatures we call great, they sink into insipid negligence and fatuity. Civility of manners is essential to real worth, and fatality, that worth is to be estimated by the energy of the principle. Our benevolence should be on immortal plane; which many waters can not quench, neither can the floods drown it, and at this moment, it warms the spirit that tunes the loudest and the sweetest harp in heaven. There we may see the value and know, which we ought to put upon the missionary of Christ. If we esteem ministers who labor in civilized places, surrounded by their friends, and protected by laws; surely missionaries, whose exertions are far more abundant than theirs, and who are deprived of all the endearments of society, and exposed to the most eminent dangers, have an infinitely higher claim upon our regard. A missionary demands our admiration. To sacrifice every earthly interest, to choose a dreary exile, to adieu the consolations of friendship in our native country, to labor where we are not known, where the voice of encouragement is never heard, and the tear of affection never mingled with our own, displays a greatness beyond even the conception of common men.

We should look upon the faithful missionary of the Cross  
as one who in his character & life makes a nearer approach  
to our great prototype than ordinary men. A missionary  
claims our sympathy. What are we brethren in Christ  
Jesus? Do we long for the glory of the Messiah's  
kingdom? And shall we not remember, with sympa-  
thizing kindness, those who, because the love of  
Christ constraineth them, are voluntary sufferers  
in heathen countries. Missionaries need also our  
prayers. In this respect we are bound to hold up  
their hands. We should never bow before a throne of  
grace without earnestly imploring the choicest blessing  
of heaven to be poured forth upon them. Missionary  
likewise deserve our support; we should do those  
who are the most active and devoted laborers in the  
vineyard of our Lord, and we dare not believe that  
the liberality of Christians will always encourage  
the work of missions, that they will ever exact  
themselves for the glorious object which they have  
solemnly ~~pledged~~ pledged themselves to promote  
at the altar of devotion. We have abundant reason  
to rejoice in the diffusion of a missionary spirit,  
and in the increase of missionaries. The darkness  
has now passed away, the morning dawns, the star gives  
peace to the glorious sun, and that sun shall

enlighten the whole globe at once and the same moment,  
the earth shall be full of his glory, and it shall be  
the glory of grace and truth, of righteousness and peace.  
O Thou Prince of the Kings of the earth, come forth out  
of the royal chambers, put on the visible robes of thy  
imperial majesty, take up that unlimited Sceptre,  
which the Almighty, Father hath bequeathed thee,  
For now the voice of thy bride calls thee and all  
creatures sigh to be renewed. This is certainly  
the greatest, and the noblest pleasure of indigent  
creatures which result from their acquaintance with  
the blessed God, and with their own immortal souls.  
And oh, how divinely sweet is it, to look into our  
own souls, when we can find all our passions united  
and engaged in pursuits after God, our whole souls  
passionately breathing after a conformity to him, &  
aspiring the full enjoyment of him! Verily no hours  
pass away with so much pleasure, as those that are  
spent in communing with God, and our own hearts.  
Oh, how sweet is a Spirit of devotion; a spirit of  
seriousness and Divine solemnity, a spirit of the  
Gospel simplicity, love tenderness; Oh how  
desirable, and how profitable to the Christian life,  
is a spirit of holy watchfulness, and holy jealousy  
over ourselves; when we are afraid of nothing so much  
as that we shall grieve and offend the blessed God,

whome we esteem to be a father and friend; whome we  
then love and long to please! Surely this is a temper  
worthy of the highest ambition and closest pursuit  
of intelligent creatures. How greatly superior is the  
peace, and Satisfaction derived from this Divine favour  
to that which we sometimes pursue in things imperti-  
nent and trifling! Our own bitter experience teaches  
us, that in the midst of such laughter the heart is  
sorrowful, and there is no true satisfaction, but in  
God. But ~~also~~! how shall we obtain and retain this  
sweet spirit of religion? Let us follow the apostle's  
direction, and labor upon the encouragement he there  
mentions, for it is God only that can afford us this  
favor; and he will be sought, and it is fit we  
should wait upon him, for so rich a mercy. Oh,  
may the God of all grace afford us the influence of  
his Spirit: and help us that we may, from our hearts  
esteem it as our greatest liberty and happiness,  
that whether we live we may live to the Lord, and  
we die we may die to the Lord; that in life and  
in death we may be his.