

A
HEAVENLY REST
FOR A
WEARY SOUL;
OR, THE
PILGRIM at his Journey's End:

BEING
The Last LEGACY of a FATHER to his
CHILDREN, when on his Death-Bed.

To which is added,

- I. The Children's Duty to GOD, their Mother and
Themselves.
- II. A COPY of VERSES, written by the
Father, a little before his Death.
- III. Some GODLY MEDITATIONS.
- IV. The FATHER's last GIFT to his CHILDREN.

By the Reverend Mr. JOHN BUNYAN,
late Minister of the Gospel, at Bedford.

*Very pleasant to read, profitable to practise, and of
excellent Use to all sorts of People, that desire to
live a godly life in this present evil World.*

G L A S G O W.
Printed and sold by J. & M. ROBERTSON.
MDCCLXXXVI.

REST for a WEARY SOUL.

- I. *The Father's admonition to his Children before his Death, wherein he informs them, First, Of their duty to GOD: Secondly, To their Mother: And, Thirdly, Of what they owe to each other.*

MY Children I must now leave you, I am going to a better place: my glass is almost run, I have fought a good fight, and have finished my course, and henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of glory. In my youth I was wild and ungodly, as most were; I spent my time idly, and never regarded what I did, so I could but please and satisfy my appetite.—I have, since my conversion (thanks be to God) taken heed to my ways, and lived as uprightly as I could: for, if I did any wrong, it was against my will; I have lived according to the rules of the holy scriptures, as much as in me lay: I loved the worst of my enemies (but hated their wicked ways) who cast false aspersions upon me, but I owe no man ill, heartily forgiving all who have been my enemies, as I hope to be forgiven thro' Christ Jesus my dear Lord.—My dear children, let me intreat you to be admonished by my words, and take my exhortation as a legacy; I having, you well know, very little to leave you.

First, Let me put you in mind of your duty to God.

Secondly, To your mother: And,
Thirdly, To one another.—But,

First,

First, Of your duty to God.

‘Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you,’ James vi. 3.—This very exhortation given by James an apostle of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, is enough to induce you, without any other, to draw nigh to God and he will draw nigh to you; if you fear God he will defend you, if you are willing to return from your evil ways, he will receive you: He desires not the death of a sinner, so that if you are not saved, it is your own fault.—And, indeed, the text comprehends a great deal of comfort, it brings salvation to a wretched sinner, it speaks to all men: so much by way of exhortation.

Let me now hasten to the first particular, which was to lay before you, your duty to God; *Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man*, Eccles vii. 13. There you see your duty; fear to offend is your duty, though comprehended so short. Be careful to serve him, fearful to offend him, diligent to keep his laws, and willing to obey his commands; abide all his corrections with patience, murmur at none of his ways, live honestly, love all men; lye not, swear not, cheat not, nor take the Lord’s name in vain: covet not that which is another man’s; love the Lord with your whole heart; fear him, and praise his name; mortify your lusts and unruly passions; resist the devil, and he will fly from you: Suffer any thing for your religion; yea, death itself, and in all things submit to the will of God. I shall conclude this head with these precepts, &c.

1. Fear to do any thing against that God whom you love, and you will not love to do any thing against that God whom you fear.

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2. Let

4 Rest for a Weary Soul.

2. Let your prayers be as frequent as your wants, and your thanksgiving as your blessings.

3. In the morning, think what you have to do, for which ask God's blessing; and, at night, think of what you have done that is sinful, for which ask him forgiveness.

4. Take an exact account of your life, be not afraid to look upon the score, but to encrease it: To despair, because a man is sinful, is to be worse, because he hath been bad.

5. Consider the shortness of your life, and certainty of judgment; the reward for the good, and the punishment for the wicked: and so you will have but one day to repent of before you die.

6. Do injury to no one; for by injuring others, you teach them to injure you.

7. Innocence will be the best guard.—He that dares be wicked, sometimes for his advantage, will always be so, if his interest requires it.

And so much for the first head: I come now in the second place, to tell you of the duty you owe to your mother.

'Honour your father and mother,' &c is the fifth commandment: 'A wise son heareth his father's instruction,' Prov. xiii. 1. And again, Prov. vi. 29. 'My son, keep thy father's commandments, and forsake not the law of thy mother.' Here you may see that duty to your parents, is a command of God. Solomon, the wisest man that ever was, gives you this character of a wise son, (that is a dutiful son,) he hearkens to his father's instructions, and willingly obeys them.

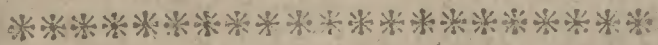
Consider then my son, on what I have said, honour your mother when I am in my grave; I give you this charge in the sight of God, and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Thirdly,

Thirdly and Lastly, I come to the duty we owe to one another.

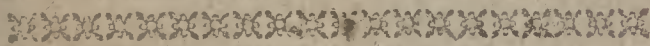
My children, take warning by the vicious habits of other men, and you will do well; whilst others strive one against another: do you strive to do good one for another; and whilst others are at variance and revile each other, do you pray for and comfort one another.

To conclude, Mind what I have said, and lay it up in your hearts, and implore God's blessing upon it. I must leave you, but I hope we shall one day meet face to face in the presence of the Almighty, where pleasures flow, and joys abide for evermore.



II. A COPY of VERSES that he made upon himself, not long before his death.

FOrbear, fond man, and weep no more, 'tis vain
When heav'n decrees, 'tis folly to complain:
This worldly mass is subject to decay,
And death and nature all things must obey:
The blushing rose smiles with the morning sun,
Just then looks gay, now withers and is gone:
Pardon my sins, Almighty God, I pray!
Forgive them all, then take me hence away;
Then my provoking soul shall upwards fly,
And leave with joy this world of vanity.



III. Some Godly MEDITATIONS.

NO creature under heaven can afford my soul
any comfort, only thou, O Lord, the Physi-
cian

cian of souls; thou bringest man nigh unto death, and restorest him unto life again, thereby shewing his weakness and thy power: therefore all love and praise be to thee, O Lord.

O God, I extol thy name; and tho' I am a sinful creature, I will not cease to give thee thanks to the utmost of my strength: I will declare thy justice and mercy, and whilst I live, I will declare thy name.

As for man he is but dust, and vanishes: his life is but a span, and full of misery.

O heavenly Father, let me not forget mine own frailty: Let me consider what I am, and remember what I shall be: then shall I forget to leave myself, and long after thee.

My sins, O Lord, are before thy face; I can turn no way but they pursue me: I intreat thee to pardon them — Consider my necessity, most mighty God, and deliver me for thy Son's sake.

Although my offences are more in number than the hairs of my head, yet Lord, shew mercy, and forgive them. — I know, though my sins were as scarlet, yet thou canst make them white as snow: therefore, O Lord, to thee be glory for ever more.

Truly, Lord, I see no cause why I should long to abide in this life. If I was arrived to such perfection as the apostle Paul was, I should desire earnestly as he did, to be with Christ.

O God, I beseech thee, to give me such things as are for thy glory, and the good of them who love thee and walk uprightly.

O my God, I pray thee, mortify the corruptions of my heart, cleanse thou me from secret faults, and send thy good Spirit to write thy law upon my heart.

Thy ways, O Lord, are the ways of righteousness, and all thy commandments are truth and holiness:

liness: as for thy will, it is altogether upright; true and holy art thou, O Lord of hosts.

O God of all truth, my panting soul longs after thee; thou art the fountain of all blessedness: I am thine, save thou me from trespassing against thee.

Oh! my sins are many, but do not surpass the power and glory of thy grace; and as for my iniquities thou shalt purge them away: I thank thee, therefore, O thou Lord of heaven and earth, for thy forgiving love and mercy in the face of Jesus Christ, my only Lord and Saviour.

O my God, arise and deliver me from this vale of wickedness, where my temptations have been many: Create in me, O God, a clean heart; Lord, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon me, that the inmost recess of my soul may be enlightened, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law and gospel, and be made of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: then shall I give thee praise for ever and ever, through Jesus Christ my Lord.

I recommend my soul into thy hands, for thou hast redeemed me, O God of truth and righteousness: Be thou my defence against the fears of death; that notwithstanding the suggestions of the tempter, I may escape all his fatal snares, that he may not have power to do me any evil. Give thy angels charge over me to defend me, and carry me safe through the regions of the air, to Immanuel's land, and to thy right hand in heaven above, where there are pleasures for evermore; where we shall be made kings and priests unto God, and go no more out; where we shall throw down our crowns before thee, in token of our gratitude, crying, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, (although we are unworthy) to receive all honour, power, glory, might,

might, majesty, dominion, blessing, and thanksgiving in the highest, for ever and ever, *Amen.*



IV. His last GIFT to his CHILDREN.

MY Children dear, a legacy
 With you I now do leave:
 Pray read it o'er, and you will soon
 My purposes perceive:
 First to your God your duty show,
 And live up to his laws:
 Then comfort you'll hereafter take,
 And vindicate his cause.

Next give all honour that is due
 Unto your mother dear;
 Such will be happy, you will find
 While they do tarry here:
 Love to your brethren God commands,
 That you will always shew:
 You then shall ever live in peace,
 In joy and honour too.

Pray love your neighbours as yourself,
 Behave to them most just:
 In all your thoughts, your words and works,
 Then you in God may trust:
 Then he'll preserve you in your steps
 That you shall never fall:
 He will be always your sure friend,
 Your God, your guide and all.

F I N I S.