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TRACTS

ON THE

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✓  
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EMBRACING

SEVERAL ON PRACTICAL SUBJECTS.

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## A

# TRAVELLER'S HINTS.

A GOOD day to you, my friends. As I was travelling this way, I thought I would stop and have a little chat with you, if you have no objection. I was admiring the farms as I come along, and was glad to see things going on prosperously. It gives me real pleasure to know that in this happy country of ours, the industrious may always succeed in obtaining a decent livelihood. It is not so in some of the countries I have visited. Were you ever in England, or Ireland, or Italy, or France? I suppose not. Well, I can tell you that in those countries you may see hundreds of families which have not bread to put into their children's mouths, because they can find no employment. And there are many besides that labour like slaves, and yet they can barely live. As to laying up a penny, that is impossible. It is very different here. I could point out to you a hundred farmers, that had nothing to begin with, but a good character and industry, and now they have nice little farms and things very comfortable around them. Many mechanics too do I know, who have their shops in good order, and are doing a thriving business, who began the world with only a few tools. Industry is a good thing. It is better than a fortune to begin with. Many a young man's prospects have been ruined by having too much money at first. Oh you would scarcely believe, if I should tell you, how many young men I have known, that have become idle and dissi

pated sots, just because their fathers left them too much money.

For my part I am always thankful when I see people under the necessity of working in some honest way for their living. It keeps them out of a great many temptations. The devil never has so much power over a man, as when he finds him idle.

There is another thing I have observed in my travels; it is this. That when a man is moral, and virtuous, and religious, he is not only more prosperous but more happy for it. When I was quite a child, my good mother used to say to me, "they that trust in the Lord, shall not want any good thing." Well, I began to believe this, and then I tried to practise it, and now that I am old, I am very certain it is true. I reasoned the matter in this way. The great God made me, or I never would have been in this world; and if he made me, he must be willing to take care of me. Well then, shall I not ask him to take care of me? and as I must eat every day, and be protected every day, I ought to ask him every day. This led me to pray to him, and I got so much in the habit of it, that I not only prayed to God morning and evening, but my heart would go up to God fifty times a day. It did not interrupt my business, for I could have these praying thoughts every now and then, even when I was walking along the road, or when there was a dozen people about me. There is nothing like getting into the habit of praying. It is very pleasant to know that God is always ready to hear, and that he is even more ready to give than we are to ask. I hope, my dear friends, you will excuse me for asking you if you have daily prayer in your family? You love these dear children of yours, and surely you pray that God would take them under his care. Poor dear little creatures, they are in great danger of forming bad habits, and getting into bad company, and I am sure there is no better way of preserving them than by putting them under the care of God. I always take an interest in children; they are surrounded by so many dangerous influences, and they have so little sense to keep out of harm's way. It was

only a day or two since, that I met a little boy not more than eight years old, and he was swearing like an old sinner, at one of his little companions. I took him by the hand, and telling him that it was very wicked to use such words, I led him to his mother, and having told her how naughty he had been, I said to her, "my dear madam, do you pray for this little boy that God would keep him from evil?" The poor woman looked confused, and then confessing that she did not, I kindly told her, that if she loved his soul which could never die, she would certainly ask a merciful God to take care of her little boy, and keep him from sin. She burst into tears, and I hope God has taught her by this time her duty to herself and children. And now, my dear friends, this would be a happy house if you would only resolve to worship God in it. How beautiful would it be to see you all collected together every morning and evening, and after reading a chapter in the Bible, and singing a hymn, if you can sing, going on your knees to ask a blessing from God your Saviour! It would do you good and your children good also. It would keep down many an angry feeling in your heart; it would help you to bear up under many a trouble; and it would keep you out of the way of many a temptation. Do, my dear friends, try it. You know that you are not to live long in this world, and unless you love and serve God, I do not know how you are to be prepared for a better one. I hope you will excuse an old man for giving you this bit of advice, for he does it only for your good.

I hope you will not satisfy yourselves because you are as good as your neighbours. I have often heard people excuse themselves in this way, and I have thought it very foolish. If your neighbours should set their houses on fire, and not try to put out the flames would that be a good reason why you should do so too? And if your neighbours neglect their souls, and never think there is a God to judge them, is that a good reason why you should not seek for the salvation of your souls? Surely not.

Perhaps you will let me tell you how it was with

myself. I before said that my good mother tried very hard to put good things into my mind. Sometimes I tried as hard to forget them, for like all others I had a wicked heart by nature. After a time they began to work upon me, and I began to think that I ought to be religious, and my mother's death taking place about this time, made me more serious. My youthful companions laughed at me for this, but I could not shake off my feelings. I saw I was a sinner, and in the Bible I learned that Jesus Christ came into the world to save even the chief of sinners. This gave me encouragement, and I daily prayed to God to have mercy on me. One man told me I need not make such ado about religion, for I was a great deal better than many others. This did not satisfy me, for I thought if others were worse, I was bad enough, and must obtain God's favour, or I would be lost for ever. Another told me I need have no fear, for there was no hell; but my own conscience as well as God's Bible told me, that "he that believeth not, shall be damned." Well my distress continued for some time, but at length God gave me peace. I cast my soul upon the Saviour of sinners, and he smiled upon me. Oh what happiness I then enjoyed! Every thing around me looked bright, and my distressing fear of death was removed. A great many years have passed since that time, and I can now say I have never repented of the step I took. I have seen as many troubles as most people, but God has been with me to support me through them all, and I can look forward joyfully, because I have a strong hope that heaven shall be my home at last. Religion's ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

Now, my dear friends, you will excuse me for giving this history of myself. I do it because I want you to try the same course. You will never be happy till you find peace with God, through Jesus Christ, who came to seek and save the lost.

You have been so kind and patient in listening to me, that I feel bold to say a few words more before we part. I may never have another opportunity.

When I was in foreign countries, I found the people

did not keep the Sabbath, and I could not help thinking that that was one great reason why there was so much vice and wretchedness. There is a great deal of Sabbath breaking in this country, and it never comes to any good. God says, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy," and surely people cannot prosper if they refuse to obey God's command. I went into one of the large prisons one day, and I found by conversing with the wretched creatures there, that they almost all acknowledged they had begun their downward course to ruin by breaking the Sabbath. You heard perhaps that farmer Thompson's barn was struck with lightning last week, and it and all his harvest were burned to ashes. Well, it was only the Sabbath before that he had all his hands at work getting in his grain, because he said there was a prospect of rain. When he had got all in, he was heard to say laughingly that it was better to work of a Sunday than to have his crops spoiled—the better day the better deed! God heard him, and sent his lightnings, and what has his Sabbath breaking come to? It is true God does not always thus immediately reward sinners, but sooner or later the punishment will come, if not in this world, certainly in the next. Remember that God will honour them that honour him. Have you a seat in a church? If you have not get one. No one will repent in another world that he spent his Sabbaths in church. Keep the Sabbath in your houses, and teach your children to do so too. It is a better way of resting and recruiting your strength, to serve God religiously on his holy day, than to be walking over the country, or taking excursions by rail roads or in carriages. Many a one by disregarding the Sabbath has prepared the way for the ruin of his children as well as himself.

As I came along the road, I saw a poor miserable creature staggering along, with a bloated face and ragged clothes. Upon inquiry I found that he had once owned a farm, but was now a beggar. He never intended to become a drunkard, but he took a little, and then a little more, until, before he knew where he was, he had become a drunkard. Now my friends, I

never knew a man to become a drunkard, who drank nothing stronger than water, and if you want to be safe, you had better stick to the water.

In one word, be virtuous, be religious, fear God keep his commandments, be at peace with your neighbours, avoid quarrelling and all angry feelings and words, be temperate, be industrious, attend to your souls, as the principal thing, and may God's peace rest on your household, and may we meet in a better and happier world. Farewell.

THE END.