

Louise Humphreys.

Spanish exercise.

Commencement; Feb. 20. 1852.

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"Even Bayonets think!" Kosuth.

now, nor owner, says Solomon; yet, were it

Ecclesiastes V. 10. "He that loveth Silver,
shall not be satisfied with Silver."

The man who said this, had all the advantages
of a finished Education. He was the Son of a King;
and became himself a King. He had Riches
and Honour, at his disposal; and, his House
was full of men servants and maid servants,
to obey his word. But, more than all these,
the Lord gave him "a wise and understanding
heart;" and, if you, Young Gentlemen, shall make
the same wise choice, that he did, you will

and, not be satisfied, say Solomon; for, the Lord gave him a wise and understanding heart;

form a precious portion of that Crown of Israel,
which is the Joy of my life.

He who is convinced, that in loving silver,
one shall not be satisfied with silver, cannot
be far from the Kingdom of God. He values
the treasures of Earth, for their proper use;
and knows, there is enough for all mankind,
if such as possess abundance, consider
themselves but Stewards of God's good things.
He that loveth silver, makes it his supreme
desire, and can no more be satisfied

with it, than his hunger can be appeased by
clouds of earth; or his thirst, by blasts of wind.
He sets his heart, upon a perishable possession.
He can never obtain as much of it, as his
passion craves. The more he acquires,
the more his restless Cares are multiplied.
He has so much more to lose. He is, also,
exposed to more than ordinary perils; and, he
has more than common power to commit
wickedness, by gratifying his own lust, or
by ministering to those of others. The

vicious Companions that enter into his Councils, are
Giants refreshed with wine, and, their seal is equal to
their opportunity to hunt men. It is not needful,
to follow this train of reflection. The ^{more} love of silver, is an
unregenerate and unholy feeling; having no proper
sense of God; no true regard for man; & accordingly
it labours for that which satisfieth not.

Perhaps the lovers of silver, of God, have never abounded
more, in any previous age, than in the present, and I
select this text, therefore, with great propriety, for
your instruction. I have lived to no purpose, if

I have not planted the seeds of perfect virtue, in the hearts
and minds of my Pupils. If you do not feel you need of
seeking wisdom from the Spirit of Divine Truth; if
you are not convinced, that all your Powers and
affections, require to be renewed by the Grace of
the Holy Ghost; to enable you to put a right
estimate on all worldly grandeur, you have not,
as yet, learned this "secret of the Lord". Without
true penitent hearts; and humble faithful minds;
you may flatter yourselves, that you love silver,
for the good that you can do; but you will fail,

now, nor ever, say, Solomon; yet, need of

nevertheless, to do what Christ requires you to do with it;
and, after you have worshipped it, through a long life, it
will throw no pleasing smile upon you, when your
glazed eyes shall rest on its mottled visage, for the
last time! I need not detail the facts which
prove, that the love of money, is the root of all evil;
the Quarrels it engenders; the Frauds it perpetrates;
the Enanities it enkindles; the Corruption that it
spreads. History is one dark record of Crimes com-
mitted by the unsanctified wills of misguided
men; and, Avarice may well stand as the type

of the other Passions, when they are not ruled by
the Saviour's Love. You may read the same
lessons, that David gave to his Son; every day of your
lives, in the rich man's Disquietudes, & the poor
man's discontent; in the sharp suffering, of the young
and the weary burdens of the old. You have only to mark
the loss of influence and favour; the slow wasting of
disease; and the sudden sinking of all worldly hopes.
If the mourning they produce, be such as the lover of
silver pours over his loss; you may know, that their
sorrow can never be turned to joy. You can have

now, not tomorrow, says Solomon; yet, more of

no difficulty in this world of trial, to find the men and women, who have experienced all that these inspired teachings describe. God's House is often almost dark with mourning! We lay the young & beautiful, together with the old & venerated, in the Tomb. They were not ours for seeing, but for loving; in the sense that Christ teaches; for, Love, is of God, and leadeth to God; whenever we esteem the Gift, more than the precious Gifts, that we receive at His Hand.

The man who holds Silver, only as a loan from God,

feels himself humbled, by each addition to his wealth; because it lays on him increased obligations; and adds fearfully to his need of Divine Grace, to prepare to meet his Maker in the Judgment! On the contrary, he that loveth Silver, feels elevated, when Riches flow into his house. The weak Creature's brain is turned, by unexpected possessions; and he engages in rash projects, which ruin him, in the estimation of his fellow men. His Reason becomes clouded, by his foolish expectations; and he can not perceive this "Sore Toil under the sun, Riches kept for the Owners thereof, to their hurt." Conetongue is called "the lust of the Eye"; since the beholding of the Silver, seems to be what the Worldling craves. "He has neither Child, nor brother", says Solomon; "yet, there is

no end of his labor". He has no money for his poor Relations; none even for his own needful comfort. His God, is for his Eye, though the Eye is "never satisfied with seeing". He does not even burn part, in fire, that he may say, as a Savage does, when he smokes his wooden Pipe, "Aha, I am warm; I have been the fire"; but, with more than a heathen's stupidity, he starves his miserable body, in order that as soon as his eyes close, his Riches may be scattered, by men whom he knew not, or by such as he held in hatred and abhorrence!

But, this Passion may seize stations, as well as individuals; or, if it take not this one form, the insatiable search for Gold, it will assume kindred shapes of self-exalta-

tion; which are liable to similar Punishment from on high. Where has there ever been a station, so exposed, as we are, to self-glorification? Our rapid growth & wonderful victories, have fostered this feeling. Our Power and Grandeur, begin to suggest the fond thought, that Distant Kingdoms are destined to tremble at our nod! Such vast acceptions, not only of land, but of the precious Metals, have inflamed the wildest imaginations of the carnal heart; and given fresh impulses to our constitutional restlessness, & love of Change. It was in some such period of uncommon development of physical power, that the Giant in wickedness, in old time, resolved, that they would no more labor & toil like former generations; but mount up, at once, to the abodes & privileges of

superior beings! Would God, our Nation could see
the folly of this self-laudation, that thinks,
without Divine Intervention, to regenerate
other Governments on Earth; while we are
unable to correct even the errors of our
own! The Almighty, in his own time,
will subvert even Kings; & trample
Dynasties in the dust; but our confidence
is, to sit still, and see the salvation of
our God. He has not called us, to this work.
We have more than we can well do,
to provide for the hundreds of thousands of
Outcasts, who land upon our shores; and,
we must be worse than demented, if we
do not perceive from the character of the
vast majority that so come, that their
Countrymen in Europe are not prepared
for a Government like ours. Happy,

thrice happy, will it be for us, if we shall
be able, by imparting mental Education,
and moral Melioration, to these thronging
millions; to make them bleed kindly
with our population, without inoculating
the body politic with the inveterate, or
incurable evils of the old world. What a
thoughtless boast was that, in one invited as
an illustrious Emigrant to our pleasant land,
that, in this period of 'light, "Even Demons
think!" Alas, what do they think! They
feel, with the war-horse, that snuffs the
battle in the breeze, that glory consists in
garments rolled in blood! Their thoughts are
those of "Lucifer, son of the morning";
to whom Isaiah applies his awful irony,
by the tongues of reprobate spirits, "Art
thou become as one of us!" Would God,

Bayonets might think! Would they might feel the Power of that Love, which was poured out on the Cross, for the sins of fallen man! They, might, perhaps, melt, and become pruning hooks of Peace, and no more fatten the green field, with Brother's Blood!

Oh that men would not, always, look to Earth, but, sometimes, raise their Eyes to Heaven, for Joys that cannot die; Joys suited to our eternity, such as God gives for the growth of these better powers, which gather treasures of heavenly thought and holy emotion, lasting as the mind, and improving, as long as the secrets of Eternity shall continue to unfold. Otherwise, "The Eye will not be satisfied with seeing, nor the Ear with hearing," and miserable creatures that we are, we shall "return to Earth, in all points, as we came, naked," as the Inspired Pen man

expresses it; as utterly destitute of Rightness, as unholy; as wretched; as unprepared for all pure and perfect enjoyments!

Mark, one moment, the prevailing tone of public speeches, and private conversation; whose chief themes are the Oppression and Tyranny of Rulers; and the Inequality of Riches & Rank among men! The Will of God, in establishing "The Powers that be," in divers orders, and in casting the lots of Individuals, in different moulds; is not regarded. We walk by Sight, and not by Faith. God Purposes of maintaining strong Governments, one Nation; and of continuing the Clashes of Society on Earth in a condition of mutual dependance upon one another; are left out of the irreligious man's account; and so, feelings of Envy and Opposition, are engendered, instead of Emotions of Thankfulness and Submission! Conceive, then, what a Theatre

for the unbridled wills of unruly men our Country
would become were the Faith of Christ to be cast
out, and the Sanctions of Death & the Judgment
to lose their force! Truth and Justice would
take their flight. The bonds of social order
would be snapped asunder. You would be able
neither to walk abroad in safety, nor to lie
down at home in quiet. Every step would
tread upon pollution. The People would reach
a Crisis, seen heretofore in guilty Nations,
where they would bear neither their sufferings,
nor their remedies. One insidious imprecation
would be cast at the Omnipotent, "Our puni-
ishment is greater than we can endure!"
and such as should fail to perish by the
malice of their Enemies would seek the grave,
by the offices of their Friends!

Say not, "Where are the Signs of Your coming?"

are not the daily assaults which are made upon
great & good men, the habitual diversion of
the ignoble and the licentious! Are not our
public Officers exposed to such relentless per-
secution, that the best men, often, are not
willing to encounter the sacrifice! Is it not be-
coming a question, whether the lives of Munda-
res shall be taken, (if taken at all), not
by Ancient Rules, but by lawless violence!
In short, whether any Principles of Public
Law can be considered as settled, or, in
other words, whether there be such a thing as
Political Truth, is it not fast becoming doubtful!
Are we likely, so to fix our confidence, on
higher and holier Popes, or to learn, with
Solomon, that "all the Rivers that run into
the Sea, can no more fill it," than they
love of novelty, can ever be satisfied!

It is a precious lesson to have secured, that Modesty, is a prime Element of Greatness.

When we have examined, closely, our Infirmities; or rather when we have fairly discovered them; we may find Grace to humble ourselves before God. Notting but our disinclination to study our own partialities and prejudices; our unfounded aversions towards some persons & foolish predilections towards others; prevents us from seeking the Saving Light of the Holy Spirit. A high opinion of ourselves blinds us to all these iniquities, as readily as it does to our guilt, in turning away from the Ordinances of Christianity.

We can examine our Wills; and our Fancies; our Disposition to consult our ease; and our Preference of our inclinations, to our Conscience, as readily as we can study any external Object; and infinitely better than we can

examine the inner life of other men.

Therefore I urge you, to acquire at once, that Quality, to which, Jesus promises the Kingdom. Bear this Cross in all humility, and contrition; and, strive through Faith, to say and to do, all things, as He would have done, in your position. If I have not convinced you of their need, my instructions have been unsuccessful. Instead of attaining true Greatness, Bibles will allure you, only for the temporal benefits they bring; and sooner or later, you will experience, in the bitterness of crushed hopes & disappointed calculations, that, "he that loveth Silver, shall not be satisfied with Silver."

It matters not what may be the form of the Papion; whether it be avarice, or ambition; whether Honour dazzle you; or pleasures fascinate you; or sensuality degrades you; but, may I remember, that sin never appears so loath-

Some, as when she seduces the Sons of Intellect, to her
low joys, and pernicious purposes. Therefore, take
no thought, for the sneers of the World. Let the
wicked decide your humble estimate of your
own merit; or ridicule your self-denial;
you can have cause only to be more thankful,
for the Grace that enables you to walk humbly
with God; and, in this blessed consciousness, you
will feel yourselves exalted; and prepared, to
fulfil your missions, in the respective spheres de-
signed for you. Such Duties, in some form,
you cannot escape. You must take your sta-
tions, and meet your responsibilities. Let no
dread of opposition; no love of inaction; no
fear of shame; prevent you from following those
Blessed Steps, that lead to Holiness and Peace.

It may be your office, to defend the Rights
of the injured, and to expose the Crimes of the Violent.

You may be called, to assuage the pains of the
suffering, and to soothe their last moments,
as they go hence to meet their God. Would,
that some of your number might hold that
higher Ministry, placed at the penitent Sinner's
right hand on Earth, which is next to
that of angels who minister from above,
to the advancement of our Everlasting Salvation.
Oh, in all these, what a miserable show
does the love of Silver make, compared with
that love of Immortal Spirit, and the Glor
that they shall wear, who turn many to
Righteousness!

On the Merit roll of St. John's, are the
names of many Eminent Citizens; whose Christian
Patriotism, it must be your ambition to imitate.
Many who were trained here, in past time, have
gone to their final account; and others must

soon follow, who still live, to make their age,
perhaps, more useful than their manhood; not
by works which require bodily strength; but
by such as are promoted by Wisdom.

We spontaneously venerate the humble and
trustful old man; whose Evening Sun goes down
with a radiance softened by the gathering
daws of death; but magnified to its most
glorious expansion, just before we lose
sight of it forever.

All Government, thus began, in ac-
cumulated Experience. With such precious
remembrances of the past, men were first knit
together, at their native hearth-stones. Many
years and much Knowledge brought from
Children and from Grand Children, respect and
love for the lessons of Equity and Truth -
Submissive Trust and lovely Piety, asked

the grey haired Patriarch for the Rule of
Duty; and covenanted, in the holiest Sym-
bols, to keep the Charge sacred for future
men.

What more glorious Title, can you
secure, than that of Successor, to those hon-
oured Worthies, whom the asterisk on the
Catalogue numbers with the dead?
Or how can you, more surely, win the Blessing
of St. John's, than by preparing to take the
place of those that still survive! Adopt
their incentive, and your whole lives will be
filled with honour and satisfaction.

I shall have graduated, with you, Six-
teen Classes of Alumni; and with very few
exceptions, they are doing the work of life,
creditably; and, therefore, are commending to
our Countrymen, the Cause of Liberal Education.

On no one point, is public opinion in these States, more united, than on the indispensable necessity of the widest possible diffusion of knowledge, among a Republican People. Still, very few of the States, at the South, have made any sufficient provision for the higher Orders of Learning; and, accordingly, those States that began early, and contributed amply, to these objects, are now receiving, in return, immense tribute, in the number of young men, who resort to them, from Sister States.

Unfortunately for us, it has not become a prevailing custom, here, for men who have silver, to remember, in making their Wills, either the Colleges, or the Common Schools; or to make, while still living to see their benefits, those rich Endowments, which have built up so many Professional Schools, in more favored Districts.

Still, this is no good cause, for our ceasing in our efforts, or for not giving thanks, for every foot = ton, whom we do send out, as the first-fruits of all that Increase, which, at no distant day, will give prominence to Maryland, in the noble rivalry of Chastetional advancement. Only let each one and all of you, observe these Precepts of Divine Truth; and Keep the heart with all diligence; and you can not fail; for, out of the heart are the issues of life and death.

Keep the lips, also, with equal discretion; for, it is as rare a talent, to know when to speak, as what to speak; and many a man otherwise well-endowed, has signally failed in public life, from wanting the common sense to hold his peace.

Ponder well, the Path that you design

to pursue, and know both your capacities for it, and the motives that impel you to it; but, when you have once resolved, adhere inflexibly to your purpose, and endeavor, by all honorable means, to win the favor of your fellow men.

"Let no man despise thee," was Paul's caution to Timothy; and, few can be more useful to young Persons about to encounter the temptations of a severe and mercenary age. Do nothing to diminish your proper self-respect, (I do not mean your false Pride), and, no man can despise you, because, by this Precept, you will, consistently, walk, by the Spirit of Him, into whom you are baptized. He that loveth Christ, shall be satisfied with the Image and Likeness, for which his soul longs; but, in studying that Image, let me warn you, not to read the Holy Scripture with a doubting or hesitating temper. Study the Bible,

as you study Works on other Sciences; feeling, that there are First Truths, which can never be demonstrated; but which commend themselves to your Reason; as Light suits itself to your Eyes, by its Beneficence. Some men will not assent to an axiom, except upon an argument; and they cannot be grounded and settled in Divine Truth; since the very attempt to produce plain proofs, must be abortive. Hence, he, eminently, is a Fool, who speculates on the high Doctrines of Revealed Religion, which God has been pleased to set forth, as a Chief part of our Mind & Probation, here. When Moses, e. g. wrote that Divine ode which Israel were to learn by heart, he called God, then "Rock"; and, the same word, in the Hebrew, is repeated many times; though the Septuagint, always translate it "God." Now, the new Testament writers assure us, "That Rock, was Christ." And, so

was the Paschal Lamb. But it matters not, in what form of words, this Idea of the Mediator is communicated; the humble and contrite heart will be prepared to welcome it; and will flee to Him who taketh away the sin of the world; while he who cavils, when he reads, will be established only in his scepticism. unless he shall thankfully receive the Word, to dwell in him, richly, with all Wisdom.

Remember, then, that though Christ was the Maker of all World; He appropriated to Himself, while here, not so much as a place where to lay His Head; and, that He promised Rest, only to such as feel the burden of their sins; & come to Him, in meekness & lowliness of heart; having no continuing city on the earth; but looking for that City which hath Foundations; whose Maker & Builder is God.

You can readily tell, whether the progress you have made in learning, what are called the Sciences, satisfies you; as you look back on the time spent, and the efforts put forth. Now, apply this Rule, to your attainment in Spiritual Knowledge, in moral improvement, holiness; and see whether you can justify yourselves before God, for the means of Grace that you have enjoyed. If you had made no more rapid advancement in the skill which seeks for silver, than in that which "hunger and thirst after Righteousness," would you have been at all satisfied? If, on this aspect of the matter, your heart reproaches you with seasons for Prayer slighted; opportunities for religious Conversation neglected; hours designed for Private Meditation wasted; or perchance affectionate admonitions & instructions forgotten — I pray you, let not the day close, without going to Him who seeth in secret; and who waits to be gracious towards every supplication of the

awakened Spirit. Human Science; no more than
fleeing Bicker; can otherwise, prove a perfect possession.
Unless a great Scholar be also a good Christian, he
can only multiply discontent. The more he learns, the more
he finds to learn; and what he has once known, he
often loses, in his eagerness to enter other fields;
and so far from satisfying him, his forgetfulness fills
him with mortification and despair. Solomon
puts it in this way. "In much wisdom, is much
grief; and he that increaseth knowledge, increaseth
sorrow!" If all that the unchristian Scholar hopes
to accomplish, is to be realized, in even the highest
forms of intellectual delight, he might better lie
down & die, with the beasts that perish, because
his scope of thought is made wider, by his higher
knowledge, only to render his perceptions of human
calamity, more extensive and more poignant,
than those of ordinary men! Hence unsanctified
Minds can have no real cause of joy, or the

Recollections of their past lives. The unconsolated Sinner
would rather blep the hand that could wipe from
the labouring brain, the Record of Days, Months, &
years of holy time lost! It is all in vain! Those
Characters of Evil have never been reached, by the
Precious Blood which cleanseth from all sin. Every
idle word, that the Impenitent has uttered; and
every evil thought he has whispered; are stamped
there, instantaneous as the touch of light; distinct
as the conviction of guilt; and indelible as
the stains of the hardened Conscience! Forgotten
by the Cursing Spirit, they may be, for the
time. The years may roll, unconsciously, over
them, till no present trace shall be manifest, of
their very existence. Still, the intense action of the
Intellect, when the Light of Eternity, shall begin to enter
will bring them out; and, like the handwriting on the
Wall, they will make the wicked tremble!

Best not, therefore, I beseech you, my young

friend, till you have finally settled this vital question, whether your hearts are ruled by a humble and thankful sense of God's Presence and Power to aid and direct you in your future course. If it be your fixed aim, to love, serve, and obey Christ, in all things, simply because you feel, that it is the Divine Will, I shall cherish a good hope, that you will lay up Treasures, where neither moth nor Rust can corrupt, and where Thieves do not break through, nor steal.

God Grant this, for every one of you; for Jesus Christ's sake.

Sat. Evening, Feb. 21st 1852.

