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THE
YOUNG WOMAN'S MONITOR;

SHEWING THE
GREAT HAPPINESS

OF
EARLY PIETY,

AND THE
DREADFUL CONSEQUENCE
OF FORSAKING THE PATH OF VIRTUE.

.....
THE FOURTEENTH EDITION.

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In this Edition a few Passages have been omitted, with a View to render the Tract more generally useful.

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THE

YOUNG WOMAN'S MONITOR.

You are now arrived at that time of life, in which your friends and relations may expect you to maintain yourself by diligence and industry. The care that has been taken to train you up in the fear of God and his most holy Religion, is the ground upon which they raise the most favourable expectations of your future conduct. Your infant years were attended with many cares; the time to come will be accompanied with many fears, lest your future behaviour may not be such as becometh the Gospel of Christ, and the expectations of your friends, end in disappointment.

As young persons too often meet with great temptations to leave the path of virtue, at their first setting out in the world, it is of great importance to preserve their character and reputation unblemished, to convince them how happy it will be for them to live as their Christian vows require they should live. This would insure GOD'S blessing upon them whilst on earth, and complete their happiness after death.

It is, therefore, the sole design of this little

Book to shew young women, what solid comfort and true honour they may attain by beginning their life well, by dedicating their first years to God, and by continuing in the path of virtue, and in the discharge of all religious duties. If you, through the grace and blessing of God, preserve your youthful tenderness and modesty, and strengthen your mind by the true love and fear of God: as you advance in years, your inclination to piety and virtue will increase. You will thereby prevent the horrid effects of those sins, which young women fall into, when they forsake the path of virtue; which many bitterly lament, when their character is lost; and all regret with horror when they come to leave a wretched life, and are entering upon an eternity of extreme misery. Your want of experience must occasion many painful thoughts to your anxious parents and friends; however, they hope your prudence will induce you to learn at the cost of others, who have been betrayed into a course of wickedness, which has proved fatal, and brought them to destruction both of body and soul. Those wretched creatures you see in the streets, who have lost all sense of virtue and modesty, may convince you, that the *fear of God is the beginning of wisdom*; that the paths of Religion are the only secure paths of peace, and lead to eternal happiness. Young women who set out well, and gain the good word of every one who know them, shine as lights in the world. Divine Providence is ever watchful over them, delivering them out of all temptations, and guarding their unexp-

rienced years from all attempts of the devil's instruments: I mean those villainous men whose minds are set upon their ruin. Hearken, not, I charge you, to the oaths, promises, or fair speeches of these seducers. Let not the gay and gaudy appearance of young women who have left the path of virtue, encourage you to follow their wretched example. You know not the uneasiness of mind and stings of conscience they experience, and the apprehensions they have of soon becoming detestable objects even to those by whom they were ruined. Let it be your object upon first going out in the world to endeavour to procure a service in a private religious family, and if you should be so happy as to get fixed in such a family, let not any prospect of advance in wages induce you to change, till you have very seriously considered the inconveniences that may attend that change. The longer you continue in a place, the greater character you will obtain of being a steady useful person. Young women are exposed to much temptation in large families from the idle and profligate men servants they often meet with there, who will endeavour to seduce their fellow servants, by every means in their power, regardless of the disgrace and ruin it must inevitably bring them to. And it is not from the domestics only you are exposed to danger, there may possibly be other persons whose rank and education ought to teach them to avoid such wicked courses who will use all the arts of persuasion, and by false oaths and deceitful words

entice you to your ruin : and then, like infernal spirits, laugh at and make sport of the poor unfortunate young persons they have deluded. It may be said of such men as our Saviour said of Judas, *good had it been if they had never been born.* For libertines, whether they are footmen or others, whether married or single, are the common pests of society. Would to God that the sentence recorded, Matt. xxv. ver. 41. may always be sounding in their ears till they amend—*Depart ye cursed into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.*

My now virtuous daughter, you see what great dangers you will be exposed to, and let me tell thee once for all, here in the presence of Almighty God, that I thy father who love thee most affectionately, had rather see the blood streaming from thy bosom than to hear of your being kept by any man upon earth, be his condition what it will, whether tradesman, gentleman, nobleman, prince, or even a king. I hope you will never have occasion, by being out of place, to apply to a public register office ; but if you should, be very particular in getting information relative to the character of the person wanting to engage you as a servant, for it is impossible for you to suspect half the wicked arts that are used to seduce young women. It was but the other day that a couple had their banns published, and the young man set a distant day to be married, and persuaded the simple young woman to live with him in the mean time, and now the villain

has left her, and will not marry her. Let this be a caution to all young women, for many have been brought to shame, disgrace, and the utmost misery and distress. Let them never think themselves more secure under promise of marriage after being asked out, or that the crime of living together is less in the sight of God.

As to your religious deportment, never omit your morning and evening prayers, and when upon your knees keep your mind intent upon Almighty God, to whom you pray. Cultivate such purity of mind as may render you acceptable to God. Blush in secret at any thought that Religion condemns. Whatever your company may be, take care not to offend against modesty by any word or action, and avoid giving any smile of approbation when words of a double meaning are spoken; and still more, if they are in direct terms indecent, you may justly conclude that such words come from a bad heart. If you should be situated where you may have an opportunity of attending family prayers, be thankful to God for it, and by your constant and ready attendance, shew that you esteem it a blessing. Let it be the delight of your life to attend, as often as you possibly can, divine worship in your parish church, and be not backward to ask leave for that purpose. You should always consider that God's eye is continually upon you, that no darkness or privacy can hinder him from being a concerned spectator, but more especially in his place of divine worship: therefore, let your behaviour

there be grave, serious, and devout, and take care to be present before service begins. Having been confirmed, and at that time in the presence of GOD taken upon you to perform the three things promised in your name, when you were baptized; that is, to renounce the devil and all his works; to believe the articles of the Christian Faith, and to keep GOD'S Commandments, you are required by your Christian profession to omit no opportunities of coming to the Holy Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. You are exhorted not to give way to the suggestions of your spiritual enemy, by pleading that you are too young to frequent that holy ordinance.

The devil would keep us all from doing our duty to GOD if he could, it is his continual employment; but do you resolve to be GOD'S servant, and then you will enjoy perfect freedom of mind in this life, and endless felicity in the next. You are of age to judge and act for yourself, and not only to discern good and evil, but to apprehend the great doctrines of Christianity, particularly of JESUS CHRIST being the Saviour of sinners and only Mediator between GOD and Man, in memory of whom, and with a design more effectually to engage his disciples to love, imitate, and obey him, this Holy Sacrament was instituted. This holy ordinance is intended to promote a spirit of piety, and the practice of all goodness in the communicants. These things persons of your years with a little serious reflection may easily understand. You will soon find the advantages

and pleasure of a constant performance of all religious duties, in a greater composure of your passions, a more exact regularity, in your conversation, a better disposition of mind, more seriousness, prudence, and success, by the blessing of God, in the common affairs of life.

With regard to the duties of the station you are going to engage in, the Apostles, Saint *Paul* and *Peter* give you plain and clear directions in the following places in their Epistles, *Col.* iii. 22, 23, 24, 25.—*Tit.* ii. 9.—*1 Pet.* ii. 18.—There you are commanded to serve, not with *eye-service*, but as fearing God, who will reward your fidelity, honesty, and industry. *Whatsoever ye do, in the way of duty as a servant, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men: knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of inheritance, for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong, shall receive for the wrong he hath done: and there is no respect of persons. Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward.* These are the words of Scripture, and they afford you great encouragement to do your duty, though your employers should be froward and peevish, and not easy to please: for the Lord Christ takes notice of you, through whose merit and intercession your faithful services will be rewarded with a place at God's right hand in the kingdom of Heaven. Young women going to service are too often afraid of hard work, and of being obliged to rise early, not having been accustomed to it at home;

but do you stay in your place, till you have put on a habit of industry, and then every thing will appear pleasant and easy. Let nothing be lost or wasted through negligence or want of care, but be as attentive to preserve the property of your employers as if it were your own; more especially against fire. Most of the fatal accidents which have happened by fire have been the effects of carelessness in Servants. Let me entreat you often to reflect upon the misfortunes and miseries that have been brought upon a whole neighbourhood through the carelessness of one person; perhaps by leaving a candle lighted by a bed-side; by carrying it about the house, and into closets among papers and linen, and with long wicks, dropping fire in going from room to room, or by leaving linen airing near the fire without being watched; by leaving little children in such a room by themselves; by taking a lighted candle, without a lanthorn into a stable. Perhaps you do not know that the penalty is one hundred pounds, or eighteen months imprisonment upon the person through whose gross carelessness a fire happens, and that where the offence is wilful, the penalty is death. Make not the affairs of the family you belong to, the subject of your discourse among your acquaintance. According to the Apostle, the great ornament of your sex, is a *meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.* Do you labour to attain this excellent spirit, and your behaviour will be such as to engage the esteem of your em-

ployers, and all who know you. As good and virtuous persons have at times experienced lowness of spirits, if it should be your case, seek to God in prayer for his grace ; but by no means have recourse to spirituous liquors, for that may draw you into a habit of drunkenness, which is a prevailing vice at this age in both sexes. Let your acquaintance be few, and they sober and religious persons. Be neat and clean in your person and dress, this will appear respectful, and add much to your character. You may sometimes see a large family extremely poor and distressed, and yet their small house will appear neat, and they and their children clean and decent, and who never make the want of cloaths an excuse for staying from Church and from Sacrament. Such as these are true and sincere servants of Almighty God ; they are faithful disciples of the blessed Jesus ; their present spiritual comforts and future prospects are great, and infinitely exceed any thing this world can offer. Therefore let me entreat you to follow such good and bright examples. Never let any man form an acquaintance with you who is not sober and industrious, but above all religious. For piety is the only bond in the marriage state that never fails. Let no word drop from you that may be a means of opening a door to mischief. Whenever you permit any man to be your confidant, or allow yourself to converse with him alone, unless he is approved of by your friends as seeking an honourable connection, it is rea-

sonable to conclude there is danger. Be careful of your money. Provide yourself with pious and religious books, particularly a Bible, Prayer Book, Whole Duty of Man, and Nelson's Practice of true Devotion. Let your dress always be such as becomes your station. Pay particular attention to this advice, for if you should be so imprudent as to fix your fancy upon dressing like a gentlewoman, I shall with extreme sorrow apprehend your destruction to be near at hand. O consider in time what has been the fate of those who have sought the trappings of folly as the wages of iniquity! What numbers of young women have I known and heard of, who, without any other inclination to wickedness, have been undone by their *immoderate* and *excessive* love of *dress* and *pastimes*. Playhouses, in great towns, and fairs and wakes in the country, have been the means of their forsaking the path of virtue. That you may not want necessary helps for devotion, the following Prayers, Hymns, and Psalms are annexed, which you are desired to get by heart.

A MORNING PRAYER.

GLORY be to thee, O GOD, who hast brought me safe to the beginning of another day.

O GOD, the Father of Heaven, have mercy upon me, keep and defend me.

O GOD, the Son, Redeemer of the World, have mercy upon me, save and deliver me.

O GOD, the Holy Ghost, have mercy upon me, help and comfort me.

Almighty and everlasting GOD, who hast safely brought me to the beginning of this day, defend me in the same with thy mighty Power. Incline my heart to every thing that is good, that I may be modest and humble, honest and just, temperate and diligent. Grant that I may never murmur, be uneasy or impatient, under any troubles of this life, but that my mind may always be contented with my present condition. I humbly recommend to thy fatherly goodness all my relations and friends, and all sick and afflicted persons, whether friends or enemies; may it please thy Divine Majesty, to comfort and relieve them: to give them patience under their sufferings, and a happy deliverance out of all their afflictions. And this I beg for Jesus Christ his sake.

Almighty and everlasting GOD, who hast made all people that are upon the face of the earth, and hast a love to every soul whom

thou hast made ; I beseech thee to have mercy upon all Jews, Turks, Indians, and Negroes ; take from them all ignorance and hardness of heart, and make them and us, one Christian family, under one master, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our Father, which art in heaven ; hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation ; But deliver us from evil ; For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

May the peace of God keep my heart and mind in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord ; and may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, be with me now and for evermore.

AN EVENING PRAYER.

MERCIFUL and gracious God, I give Thee humble thanks for having brought me safe through another day, and humbly beg thy gracious protection this night against all temptations to evil, and from all perils and dangers. Pardon, O God, what thou hast seen amiss in me the day past, in thought, word, and deed ; and grant me thy grace, that I may continue

in all dutiful obedience to thy Divine Majesty all the days of my life. That I may die in peace, and rest in hope, and rise in glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O LORD, and heavenly Father, I acknowledge thy great goodness to me, in sparing me when I have deserved punishment, and setting before me the happiness of a better life: give me grace that I may lead and end my life in thy faith and fear, and to thy glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O Almighty God, from whom no darkness can hide us, and whose eye is continually upon us, deliver me from all the temptations I may be exposed to, and preserve me from all the powers of the enemy of souls. I humbly pray for all my fellow-creatures, and in particular for my friends and relations, that their various wants may be relieved, and that we may be truly thankful for all thy great blessings. Give me grace, O LORD, to enable me to continue in the path of virtue and true religion, that I may at death be fitted to be made happy in thy presence, through the merits and intercession of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of my heart, by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit; that I may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy Holy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our Father, which art in heaven ; hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven ; Give us this day our daily bread ; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation : But deliver us from evil : For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

May the peace of GOD keep my heart and mind in the knowledge and love of GOD, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord ; and may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, be with me now and for evermore. Amen.

A MORNING HYMN.

AWAKE, my soul, and with the sun
 Thy daily stage of duty run ;
 Shake off dull sloth, and early rise
 To pay thy morning sacrifice.

Redeem thy mis-spent time that's past,
 Live this day, as 'twere thy last :
 'T' improve thy talents take due care ;
 'Gainst the great day thyself prepare.

Let all thy converse be sincere,
 Thy conscience as the noon-day clear :
 Think how th' all-seeing God thy ways,
 And all thy secret thoughts surveys.

Wake, and lift up thyself, my heart,
 And with the angels bear thy part ;
 Who all night long unwearied sing,
 Glory to the eternal King.

Glory to thee, who safe hast kept,
 And hast refresh'd me whilst I slept ;
 Grant, Lord, when I from death shall wake,
 I may of endless life partake.

Lord, I my vows to thee renew ;
 Scatter my sins as morning dew :
 Guard my first spring of thought and will,
 And with thyself my spirit fill.

Direct, controul, suggest this day,
 All I design, or do, or say ;
 'That all my pow'rs with all their might,
 In thy sole glory may unite.

Praise GOD, from whom all blessings flow :
 Praise him all creatures here below :
 Praise him above, ye heavenly Host,
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

AN EVENING HYMN.

GLORY to thee, my GOD, this night,
 For all the blessings of the light ;
 Keep me, O keep me, King of kings,
 Under thy own almighty wings.

Forgive me, Lord, for thy dear Son,
 The ills that I this day have done,
 That with the world, myself, and thee,
 I ere I sleep at peace may be.

Teach me to live, that I may dread
 The grave as little as my bed ;
 Teach me to die, that so I may
 Triumphant rise at the last day.

O may my soul on thee repose ;
 And with sweet sleep mine eyelids close ;
 Sleep that may me more lively make,
 To serve my GOD, when I awake.

When in the night I sleepless lie,
 My soul with heavenly thoughts supply ;
 Let no ill dreams disturb my rest,
 No pow'rs of darkness me molest.

Praise GOD, from whom all blessings flow :
 Praise him all creatures here below :
 Praise him above, ye heavenly Host,
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

A HYMN FOR THE LORD'S DAY.

THIS is the day, the Lord's own day,
 A day of holy rest:
 O teach our souls to rest from sin :
 That rest will please thee best.

This is the day, thy day, O Lord,
 On which thou didst arise :
 For sinners having made thyself
 A sinless sacrifice.

Thou, thou alone, redeemed hast
 Our souls from deadly thrall ;
 With no less price than thine own blood,
 The purchase of us all.

Had'st thou not dy'd, we had not liv'd,
 But dy'd eternally,
 We'll live to him that dy'd for us,
 And praise his name on high.

Thou, Lord, didst die, and rise again,
 And didst ascend on high,
 That we poor sinners, lost and dead,
 Might live eternally.

Thy blood was shed instead of ours ;
 Thy soul our guilt did bear :
 Thou took'st our sins, gav'st us thyself ;
 Thy love's beyond compare.

Welcome, and dear unto my soul
 Is thy most holy day ;
 May I th' eternal sabbath keep
 With God, my hope and stay.

I come, I wait, I hear, I pray :
 Thy footsteps, Lord, I trace ;
 I joy to think this is the way
 To see my Saviour's face.

These are my preparation-days,
 And when my soul is drest,
 These Sabbaths shall deliver me
 To thine eternal rest.

PSALM CXXXIX.

THOU, Lord, by strictest search hast known
 My rising up and lying down,
 My secret thoughts are known to thee,
 Known long before conceived by me.

Thine eye my bed and path surveys,
 My public haunts and private ways ;
 Thou know'st what 'tis my lips would vent,
 My yet unuttered word's intent.

The veil of night is no disguise,
 No secret from thy all-searching eyes :
 Thro midnight shades, thou find'st thy way
 As in the blazing noon of day.

Search, try, O GOD, my thoughts and heart,
 If mischief lurks in any part ;
 Correct me where I go astray,
 And guide me in thy perfect way.

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
 The God whom we adore,
 Be glory as it was, is now,
 And shall be evermore.

PSALM XLII.

As pants the hart for cooling streams,
When heated in the chase ;
So longs my soul, O GOD for thee,
And thy refreshing grace.

For thee, my GOD, the living GOD,
My thirsty soul doth pine ;
O when shall I behold thy face,
Thou Majesty Divine !

Why restless, why cast down, my soul !
Trust GOD, and he'll employ
His aid for thee, and change these sighs
To thankful hymns of joy.

Why restless, why cast down my soul !
Hope still, and thou shalt sing
The praise of him, who is thy GOD,
Thy health's eternal spring.

Praise for Redemption.

BLEST be the wisdom and the pow'r,
The justice and the grace,
That join'd in council to restore
And save our ruin'd race.

Our father eat forbidden fruit,
And from his glory fell ;
And we his children thus were brought
To death and near to hell.

Bless'd be the Lord that sent his Son
To take our flesh and blood,
He for our lives gave up his own,
To make our peace with God.

On the Sacrament.

He honour'd all his Father's laws,
Which we have disobeyd;
He bore our sins upon the cross,
And our full ransom paid.

Behold him rising from the grave,
Behold him rais'd on high;
He pleads his merits there to save
Transgressors doomed to die.

There on a glorious throne he reigns,
And by his pow'r divine
Redeems us from the slavish chains
Of Satan and of sin.

Thence shall the Lord to judgment come,
And with a sovereign voice
Shall call, and break up every tomb,
While waking saints rejoice.

O may I then with joy appear
Before the Judge's face,
And with the bless'd assembly there
Sing his redeeming grace.

ON THE SACRAMENT.

MY soul with grateful thoughts of love
 Entirely is possess'd,
 Because the LORD vouchsaf'd to hear
 The voice of my request.

Since he has now his ear inclin'd
 I never will despair ;
 But still in all the straits of life
 To him address my pray'r.

How just and merciful is God !
 How gracious is the LORD !
 Who saves the harmless and to me
 Doth timely help afford.

'Then what return to him shall I
 For all his goodness make ;
 I'll praise his name, and with glad zeal
 The cup of blessing take.

To thee I'll off'rings bring of praise,
 And, whilst I bless thy name,
 The just performance of my vows,
 To all thy saints proclaim.

A short PRAYER at first coming into Church.

LORD, I am now in thy house: assist, I pray thee, and accept of my services: Let thy Holy Spirit help my infirmities, disposing my heart to seriousness, attention, and devotion; to the honour of thy holy Name, and the benefit of my soul, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

A PRAYER when going out of Church.

BLESSED be thy Name, O Lord, for this opportunity of attending thee in thy house and service. Make me, I pray thee, a doer of thy word, not a hearer only. Accept both us and our services, through our only Mediator, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Grace before Meat.

SANCTIFY, O Lord, we beseech thee, these thy good creatures to our use, and us to thy service, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Grace after Meat.

BLESSED and praised be thy holy Name, O Lord, for these and all thy other blessings bestowed upon us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE END.

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