No. 87

The duty of remembering God in
His Father

Dec 1820
Psalm LXXXVIII. 7. "That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God."

This is said by the sweet poet of Israel, confounding the dealings of the Adversary with the Jehovah of their salvation. The history of this people proves them to have been singularly persevering and resolute. In defiance of divine justice & in state of divine mercy, they wandered from them whom they acknowledged to be their heavenly leader. But this law & their institutions, appointed by divine authority, were intended, in some degree to operate as a check upon their fathers & rebellions dispositions. They were designed to perpetuate & transmit the knowledge of God.
sense of obligation to Him, or in counteract the habit of forgetfulness of God, it seemed so easily to open upon the minds of this obdurate people. "God, say the sacred text, "he established a testimony in Jacob, appointed a law in Israel, and the commandments of his people, that they might set their hope upon God, and not forget the words of God."

The duty towards, from a consideration of the idea suggested in the text, from the calls upon, attention is the remembering God, the duty of reflecting upon God, the duty of beholding to Him in every situation, and upon all the events of life, of recognizing this hand, of observing the course of His providence. This is a duty, and necessarily springs out of the relation in which we stand to God, the relation of the finite to the Infinite, of the creature to the Creator, of the child to the Parent. Yet there is seen by any duty, wh we perform or neglect, wholly, superficially, as such. The disposition to that, with the duty from our thoughts is so habitual, that, until we come to reflect on the subject, we are not aware how much entirely forgetful we are of God. We stop at second causes, and where of course, we have the truest foundation, in stead of the great first cause. The theme seeming makes use of intermediate agents in accomplishing the purposes of his government. Mankind is left to the agency of man. Our success, our failures, our happiness, our unhappiness, are immediately to result from ourselves, from our own volitions, our wishes, our own good behavior or misconduct. And even in the natural world, events seem to be brought about by the immediate operation of chance, as we have seen, by established, our constant or regular in this effect. It is thus that the hand of the Almighty is, as it were, hidden, from our view, and in many cases, when the means, we forget that there is one above, to whom these means are but the instruments of effecting what he wills. God works by secondary causes if this is one reason why we think so little of the agency of God. It would seem as if we thought the thing
power & wisdom stepped up the act of creation, & that the Deity threw his arch from his hands, & gave it up to the direction of chance. If we do not perceive the operating of the Almighty, it is too often only in these great & striking events, or if we may so say, from our own pronouncements, we cannot be so blind as not to see the lightning of this power. And yet, it is certainly certain, that it is to be seen acknowledged meth in the common & ordinary course of events; yet it is foolish, pray it is injudicious to act as if we supposed that there was less of power & wisdom in supporting the course of nature, than in directing from that course.

We must not then forget the works of God. It is our duty to observe with reverence the hand of Omnipotence, the events of life, & in the course of human affairs. But is exemplifying this duty in a few instances.

Are you in prosperity? Does the day of grace shine on you? Then think of God, think of Him, who hath made the stars of your space to shine so bright, & who hath given you a rich abundance of the fountains of enjoyment. It is not to yourself you owe your happiness; through you own industry, or your own virtue, has he achieved it for you. If you say, who gave you the power to be marvellous spirits, & who furnished you with objects to work your existence upon be directed? Who, but God? Who is it, that has so admirablekly adapted the means to the end, so connected them as cause & effect, as to enable you to be successful & prosperous? Who is it but God? He is it not then, who makes you happy, but God? He is it not then, who makes you happy, but God? He is it not then, who makes you happy, but God? He is it not then, who makes you happy, but God? He is it not then, who makes you happy, but God? He is it not then, who makes you happy, but God? He is it not then, who makes you happy.

And will you in the pride of self-complacency neglect to act the hand, because it brings blessings to you in a natural & ialient way? Must we be extenuated from the heavens in a visible manner, to show our enjoyment? If that be so, be you look so I am grateful? Remember, that if you are happy, it is God, who hath made you so. He has done it for you, through the medium of your friends, or of your own efforts; but ultimately it is from Him only.

Are you in sorrow? Do the hours roll darkly, heavy over your head, & are you suffering great & bitterness of soul? Do not then sink down in despair, but raise your heart to Him, who can stretch the rainbow on the darkest cloud. In the hour of affliction, think of God, with the confidence, that he does not stay his mercy to give you pain, for
you have faith in Him, & therefore you choose not affliction willingly as a prove the children of men? Be thankful that in the day of adversity, it is your privilege to be able to have recourse to God, & that when the world has nothing but pain & grief to offer you, you can look beyond it to Him, who can make these light afflictions work out for you a far more exceeding price an eternal weight of glory: Affliction can be borne with a proper spirit, only when the hand of God is seen & acknowledged. As in that. When we can bring our heart to feel, that "The storms, like the clouds of spring, may come, & wear the heart out in its darkest hour. "Thou canst never reach the flower, but "But has a blessing in its darkest hour."

"The hour of sorrow, let it not forget the works of God; let us then look to Him, of acknowledge His providence, remembering that what He does, is done because it is best.

Are we in health? Shall we not then think of Him, who gives us health? What power is it, that leaves our

omen, stirs the blood freely through our veins, that guides & subdues all the complicated movements of the frame of man, that model of members; that gives us the height, breadth, beauty, &e. of health? But not a divine power? Most surely it is; if it could be more than in our state, if we do not recognize it. We are helpless in the midst of all our strength, if we not give evidence & forget God, & think the blessings of health were in our own selves.

Are we oppressed with sickness? And has our frame been brought to a condition of infirmity? Then surely we should look to that God, who forgave our enemies, our diseases, who can calm the distracted brain, assuage the throbbing pulse, give strength to the failing, & the bed of languishing of death. There is an All Physician, who having smitten can heal. & in all diseases, the power of life & death. Looking to Him with an eye of faith, we can neither endure the meanest days of sickness, look forward to a recovery or to the grave with submission to this will.

Do we call to mind our past lives, & being from the store-house of memory, the changes of the events involved stories.
oe a cold, dark, and heavy mist resting on it, instead of those fields of sunshine, of that abiding residence with God that we are in. God only knows what a day will bring forth, therefore let all your plans and thoughts with regard to futurity be disciplined by a devout remembrance of Him.

Thus far I have mentioned a few of those instances in the common course of life, in which one may notice the hand of Providence, for the experience of each individual may add many others to the number. But there are other events of a more public and striking nature, in which we are called upon to remember God. The history of the world is a history of the dealings of the Almighty with men. As we turn back to think of the days that are gone, we find ourselves tracing, as it were, amidst the number of Divine Providence, from the records of past ages those scenes of war, of civil and foreign wars, those scenes of blood and cruelty, those scenes of rapid and sudden change, when the mighty revolutions of earthly things. It is in the fate of communities, that we see most strikingly the great operations of the Divine government. In them great evil
To the President or Secretary of the
Temperance Society
Watertown.
This day reminds us of our obligations as a people, "not to forget the works of God;" for it is the day on which is annually commemorated the landing of our forefathers at Plymouth. This day completes the period of 213 years since first civilized man planted his dwelling on this earth; and the feeling with which we look back to that event, should be a religious feeling. For the event itself was a religious one.
facts are produced rapidly; changes are wrought by powerful means. Where are the beings, who once that
with the monarch of Babylon, to enslave their slaves and
the stars of God, who made them follow the spirit of
their gods, if the instruments of their ambition? They are
gone, if their names only have reached us. They were
the nations, and stood proudly on an eminence of greatness
a subject world, if the great, of whose glory has endured
the track of ages even to us? They too are smelt away, if
we are left to imagine what they were. Some lands gave
up to power, as well as for individuals, for the mighty
ness of the earth, as well as for the humble inhabit-
ent of the cottage. Even in our time, we may see the
principalities of powers, tottering to their foundations
as in their roots; we have had memorable proofs of the
instability of earthly grandeur, the transitory nature of
human glory. We look upon the world; if we are emboldened
to notice the hand of the All-Mighty, if we can see,
the most careless must be awaked, the most heedless arrested, while God thus
punishes us by all the splendid and mighty events
of the world, that He, the Saviour, is the Sovereign of the
universe. The reason might not be found, was without a devout re-
taining, giving us an insight into the power and majesty of God.
This view of the subject with its leading to an研究所
most particularly embarrassing to us. The time for fulfilling
our obligations as a people, not to forget the words
of God. We have not arrived at the termination of the
20th century since God, and man planted his dwelling
in this part of our land, of the feeling with which we look
back on our history, so we can only partly understand
the acknowledgment of the providence of God, so that
people. Consider, for a moment, what we were at our origin,
what we are now. Now, now, We have had such mighty
effects proceed so rapidly from so small beginning. We
are to see the greatness of the hand of youthful strength,
consummated, one would scarcely believe that he was one a weak, helpless
infant in the cradle; so, when we consider the born
we can hardly believe that to the commencements of all this strength
wealth was as pennies, so pennies... For we once the first set,
shady alleys. Rivers and canals on every hand, engaging in commerce and navigation, 193
merchants and manufacturers, 194
faithful, industrious, and capable of self-sacrifice. 195
men and women of education and refinement, 196
men of science and learning, 197
men of talent and genius, 198
men of wealth and influence, 199
love and the pursuit of knowledge. 200
fathers. Respect for their errors I would be no more in
natural, for antiquity cannot give us to avoid any authority.
Or don't their bad their faults; but for the most part they
were the faults of the age, as men as we ourselves, and were
placed in the same situation; and the same influence could'
not have avoided. Yet if they were not, such it will becomes
of character, that unerring, discerning intuitions, that gaved
at of thunderous exaction, of severe self-denial, of patient endur-
ance, of suffering patiently, &c. more than all that before?
just to God, as suspected them through a considerable danger
of it, made them, the medium of blessings to their latest
prosperity. They have long since gone to their rest, but the
waves of the ocean still break by the same, there above.
their feet, and pressed the groud of their adoption; country,
turning that we should remember the men, whom they bore
within the groans of ours their cares, & every monument
that is testimonial of what they were of what they did in the
cause of God, of religious truth & republic liberties, teaches us
that we should cherish & communicate, that out of spiritual
forces in every breast, in that little band of the bands. Above
all we should remember, that they were a religious people.
Concord Dec 6, 1833.

Our Association will meet next Tuesday at Waltham.
If the falling weather.
H.B. Goodwin Secy.

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They doubtless had their faults—in some instances great and deplorable ones. Of these some were without excuse. Let us only to regret the imperfection of good men; others, the most considerable, were the faults of the age, such as we, or any of their descendants, had we been placed in the same situation under the same influences, should not have escaped. But whether their faults were those of their age or not, it would be unprofitable in this brief notice to expatriate upon them.
truth, it cannot be well with that individual
that nature at the least...

Such are the reflections to which I have been led by the
text which regards to our private obligations; likewise with
regard to the historical reminiscences, oh this day suggests,
If we should have a hope that is to endure, if such con-
sideration when all else fails, it must be a hope set
in God... Your would not be unfaithful to every help-
ing service duty, as belongs to us as immortal beings,
we must not forget the works of God... All that starts
nothing in human virtue, all that is valuable in human
happiness, depends on having the heart bound to join in
the same ties of thekindness I deserve confidence. Whatever
matters whatever individual duties or neglects this great
O then, whose providence is our support, give help, would have thee as that infinite Being, whose power upholdeth whosoever blesses the universe. We pray that we may be enabled to put our trust in God, that we may not get the marks of God. Give us grace O Lord, to notice those who do good to thy will in all the events of life. We are in joy or in sorrow, in sickness or in health, whether we review the past or look to the future, may we equally have a regard to their administration, may we remember them with the faith that whatsoever they do is for the best. We thank thee O Lord, that at this time we are called upon to remember, that thy providence hath made us your faith for good. We bless thee that thou didst appear for our ancestors in their days of trial, didst deliver them from all their troubles, didst preserve them in the midst of danger, didst enable them to establish the church on these shores of to transmit to us the blessings of true liberty and good institutions. Thus, O Lord, may we defend
originally to notice those heads of aeres they forementioned great events; I may now on its improve as we ought to all those blessings with them that are joined in the same community. One with us, only of family...