

Wanderings of a Pilgrim

David Harsha



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CONTENTS: This World a Wilderness, and the Christian a Pilgrim Commencement of the Christian's Journey- Difficulties in the Way Encouragements- Provision by the Way The Christian Pilgrim in the Valley of Baca The Posture of the Christian Pilgrim in Coming up from the Wilderness of this World Passage over the Jordan of Death The design of this essay is to contemplate the Christian's journey through the wilderness of this world to a better land. It has been the grand object of the author to make the reader feel that he is a stranger and a pilgrim on earth- to make him realize the solemn truth, that a man's life is vanity; that his days are as a shadow which passes away; that mutability and dissolution are the characteristics of all sublunary objects; that, "All, on earth, is shadow; all beyond is substance." When we look at the brevity and vanity of human life, we may well exclaim, in the beautiful and touching reflection of Edmund Burke, "What shadows we are, and what shadows we pursue!" And in the similar impressive language of Patrick Henry, "I am but a poor worm of the dust, as fleeting and unsubstantial as the shadow of the cloud that flies over the fields, and is remembered no more!" Or we may rather open the pages of Holy Writ, and say, with the wisest of men, "Vanity of vanities; all is vanity;" and with other inspired penmen, "As for man, his days are as grass; as a flower of the field so he flourishes; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more." "For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appears for a little time, and then vanishes away." Amid the excitement and bustle of a busy world, it is to be feared that the Christian too often forgets his true character as a pilgrim, journeying to mansions of glory in the skies. Too apt is he to place his affections upon those terrestrial objects by which he is surrounded in his pilgrimage. How often is this the case with the young Christian, over whom the world, with its delusive pleasures, exercises such a fascinating power. The author would earnestly and affectionately entreat the young reader to pause with this solemn reflection, 'I am but a traveler here.' Remember that you are passing rapidly through a scene of shadows and death to a state of eternal realities. O, then, we beseech you to live, as God's dear children, above the world, with your eye directed to that blessed home in your Heavenly Father's House, where the wicked shall cease from troubling, and where the weary are at rest. "See to it, Christian, that you do not love the world. By faith in the cross of Christ, and the bleeding glories of Calvary; this world with all its riches and honors will become a dim and dying object in your view. " "In the arms of Jesus we shall be safe, eternally safe from the attacks of our subtle adversary. Satan will never be able to pluck a single believing soul from the hands of an Almighty Savior!" The devotional writing of David Harsha exhibit some of the most powerful attractions of Jesus Christ and that world of glory. To those who are asking the way to Zion, with their faces toward there, the author knows that these themes will be at all times refreshing. The design of this essay is to contemplate the Christian's journey through the wilderness of this world to a better land, even the Heavenly Canaan- to point out, briefly, the way by which the Captain of our Salvation leads his followers to glory. It has been the grand object of the author to make the reader feel that he is a stranger and a pilgrim on earth- to make him realize the solemn truth, that a man's life is vanity; that his days are as a shadow which passes away; that mutability and dissolution are the characteristics of all sublunary objects; that, "All, on earth, is shadow; all beyond is substance."

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