

“Who then is elevated? Upon what is the claim founded? Upon wealth? Have we been as industrious and prudent as we might? Will we be from this time? Shall this be the commencement of a new era in our lives?

“Is our elevation founded upon our intelligence? Have we been diligent, and studious in the cultivation of our mental powers? Have we improved the golden moments as they have passed away?

“Are we morally elevated? Have we all submitted to the claims of the gospel? Is there a *power* in our faith which works by *love*, and *purifies* the heart? Who is striving to become elevated? Who is seeking the elevation of the people? Who are the true friends of society? Who is striving to promote the elevation of the rising generation? Can they not be elevated? Can they not be “trained up in the way they should go?” Are there no motives to urge us to seek our elevation, because we are deprived of some of our political rights? Because we cannot rush to the stormy conflict of the political arena, shall we basely [set] still and do nothing? Can we offer no sacrifice, unless we burn it with the “strange fire” of ambition?

“No motives to be industrious and prudent, that we may have the means of personal comfort – that we may be able to educate our children – that we may be prepared for the day of adversity and distress – that we may have a shelter from the rude and cheerless storms which howl around and sweep the desolate winter of life? If we desire personal comfort and respectability, if we have in our bosoms love for our families and children, there is a

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strong motive to urge us to pursue the path of industry and economy. No motive for intellectual elevation! What sources of pleasure and happiness are open to an intelligent mind amid the works of creation and the sublime wonders of revelation! No reasons for the cultivation of the mental powers? Sentiment unworthy an immortal mind!

"Ascend then, another step, and view yourself as a moral being. The soul seated upon the throne of eternity, can say with a voice which encircles endless ages: "I live for ever a spark of the Deity." Noble thought! solemn truth! Motives press upon you as moral beings, broad as the universe, wide as creation, high as heaven, deep as hell! What motives surround you! See your children going on with you to the retributions of eternity! See the claims of society, the interests of the church!

"Go stand upon the Alleghany mountains and throw your eyes over the cotton plantations and rice fields of the South.

"Hear the groan of the father in bondage, how his manly frame trembles, how his heart beats, the large tear-drop stands in his dim eye, not because he has toiled away his youth and manhood with no reward but the cruel lash of the relentless task master, not because he has no hope but in the silent grave; but his humble cottage has been plundered, robbed, not of silver and gold, but of his wife, the humble friend of his heart, the companion of his labor. His son has been seized and driven away where he shall never gladden the eye of his father

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