

NOW
IS THE TIME!

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NOW IS THE TIME



“Not yet,” said a little boy, as he was busy with his trap and ball; “when I grow older, I will think about my soul.” The little boy grew to be a young man.

“Not yet,” said the young man, “I am now about to enter into trade ; when I see my business prosper, then I shall have more time than now.” Business did prosper. “Not yet,” said the man of business ; “my children must have my care ; when they are settled in life I shall be better able to attend to religion.” He lived to be a grey-headed old man. “Not yet,” still he cried ; “I shall soon retire from trade, and then I shall have nothing else to do but to read and pray.” And so he died : he put off to another time what should have been done when a child. He lived without God, and died without hope.

“Now is the time,” says *con-*

science. “It is right you should give to God the earliest and best of your life. While your heart is tender, and your life is before you, you should begin to love and serve him. If you had a rose to give to a friend, would you wait till it was faded and dead before you offered it? Would you not give it when it was in its blossom and beauty? The little hymn says—

“A flower when offer'd in the bud
Is no vain sacrifice.”

“Now is the time,” says *Providence*. You will never again have so good a time. The word of God is all written, and is in your hands. You have teachers, and ministers, and Sabbaths.

The door of mercy is open. "All things are ready." You will gain nothing, and may lose much, by delay. A man on a journey came to the side of a river, and there sat down on a green bank. A traveller, who found him playing with some wild plants which grew by his side, asked him what he was doing. He said he was waiting till all the water ran past. But soon night came on, the river still flowed, and the man was left in darkness in a strange land. You say, "He was a foolish man." But when you sit down, and do not go to Christ until you think there is less to hinder, you act just like that man. If you do not yield yourself to him

now, sin will harden your heart as you grow older.

“Now is the time,” says the *word of God*. It is “the accepted time.” Your Saviour says, “I love them that love me, and those that seek me early shall find me.” “Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth.” He speaks to you, “Give me thine heart,”—not the body only, though that must be given. He asks not for the shell, but for the kernel; not for the casket only, but for the jewel. Not only your tongue, your hands, your ears, but your heart. It is the best thing you have to give; and Jesus is pleased to accept it. It is better in his esteem than

silver, and gold, and diamonds. of you give him your young heart, he will make it better. By nature it is sinful: he will renew it by his Holy Spirit. It is naturally hard: he will soften it with his love. It is barren and unprofitable: he will make it fruitful by his grace. He can make it not only holy, but happy. He will make it a faithful heart. Then your sins will be blotted out by his precious blood, and you will be one of his redeemed family. But do not forget, "Now is THE TIME."

It is *wicked* to delay to make this gift. It is true you are young; but you must not put off faith and repentance. Young as you are, you have sinned against

God, and it is not too soon to repent. You need a Saviour; it is not too soon to believe on Him. It is also *dangerous* to delay. There was a famous general named Hannibal, who went with a great army to take the city of Rome. When he could have taken it he did not, and when he would have taken it he could not. He lost all by delay. So when many young persons may come to Jesus they will not; they put it off till it is too late. Consider, you may die soon, and if you die in your sins you will be lost for ever. It is related of a little Syrian boy that he asked his teacher to instruct him in the law of God, and was told that he was too young. "But.

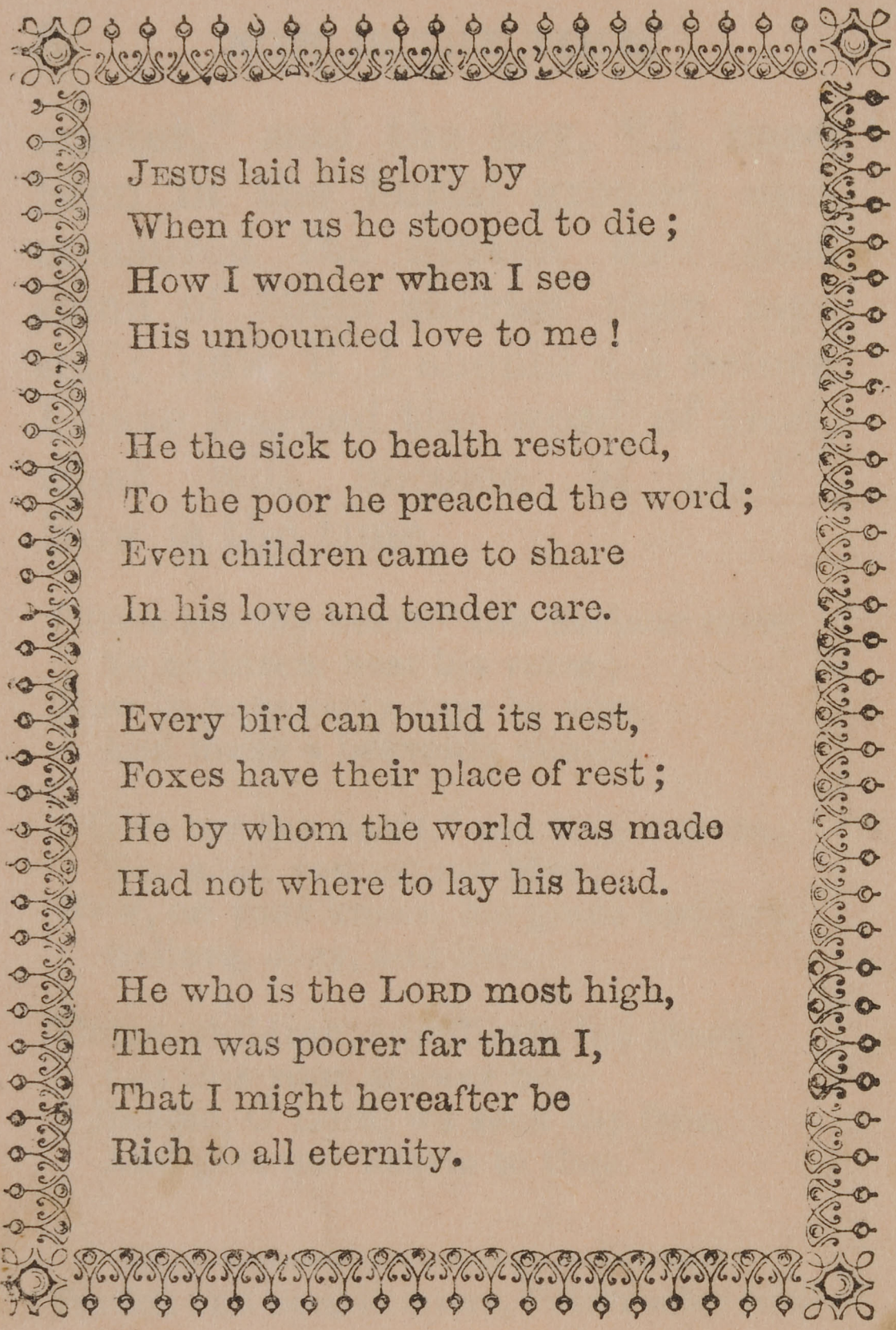
master," said the boy, "I have been in the burial ground, and measured the graves, and find some of them shorter than myself: now, if I should die before I have learned the word of God, what will become of me?"
Now is the time.

"Give me thy heart," the Saviour cries.
Ye children, hear his voice;
Now in your early days be wise,
And make a heavenly choice.

Give me thy heart," nor linger more,
Too soon you cannot give;
Now, on your knees, his grace implore,
Believe, obey, and live.

Come, children, supplicate his grace,
Let this your answer be—
"Behold, O Lord, we seek thy face,
And give our hearts to thee."

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JESUS laid his glory by
When for us he stooped to die ;
How I wonder when I see
His unbounded love to me !

He the sick to health restored,
To the poor he preached the word ;
Even children came to share
In his love and tender care.

Every bird can build its nest,
Foxes have their place of rest ;
He by whom the world was made
Had not where to lay his head.

He who is the LORD most high,
Then was poorer far than I,
That I might hereafter be
Rich to all eternity.