

**LIFE'S EVENING;
OR, THOUGHTS FOR
THE AGED**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649386178

Life's evening; or, thoughts for the aged by Samuel Burnham

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

SAMUEL BURNHAM

**LIFE'S EVENING;
OR, THOUGHTS FOR
THE AGED**

✓
LIFE'S EVENING;

OR,

THOUGHTS FOR THE AGED.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "LIFE'S MORNING," ETC.

"The shadows of the evening are stretched out."

JER. VI. 4.

BOSTON:
J. E. TILTON AND COMPANY,
161 WASHINGTON STREET.
1860.

University Press, Cambridge :
Electrotyped and Printed by Welch, Bigelow, & Co.

CONTENTS.

	Page
THE REVIEW OF LIFE	5
THE AGED CHRISTIAN	37
TOO OLD TO BE USEFUL	41
THE PROMISED STRENGTH	65
THE ENIGMA OF LIFE	89
SELF-JUSTIFICATION	92
THE LOSS OF MEMORY	115
"ABIDE WITH US"	126
SYMPATHY AND SELFISHNESS	137
THE UNCHANGING FRIEND	149
WORDS IN SEASON	172
LIGHT AT EVENING	204
THE BANKS OF THE RIVER	206
WHEN WILT THOU DIE ?	235
THE HEAVENLY REST	238
OUR HOME	263

The Review of Life.

The busy day of life is over. Its pleasures, its duties, and its anxieties have passed away. The sunshine and the shade, which alternately marked its path, have alike disappeared; and the soft tints of evening are gathered over the sky.

The evening of life! Yes: life has its sunset hour, its twilight season. The dim eye, the silvered lock, and the feeble step, indicate that the closing period of earthly existence has arrived. How rapid has been the flight of time! how near must be the approach of eternity!

The gradual decline of health and strength is a kind and merciful preparative for the solemn change which awaits us. It seems to lessen the reluctance which our nature feels to give up life ; to wean us from the varied attractions of earth ; to soften the abrupt transition from the present to a future state of being. It accustoms us to the consideration of death : it assists us in the realization of immortality.

The evening of life ! Evening is the time for *rest*. The little bird seeks its leafy roost ; the rosy child throws aside its playthings and falls asleep ; the weary laborer comes home from his work. The cares of the day are forgotten ; and all is hushed and quiet. And life's closing hours, Christian reader, should be distinguished by serenity and repose. You must not harass and perplex yourself now with occupations which were once both appropriate

and necessary, nor repine because you are unable to exert yourself as in former days. Your strength is to sit still. Old age is the resting-place in the journey of life; and the feverish heat of noontide is exchanged for the refreshing coolness of twilight.

An impatient, restless, grasping, or dissatisfied spirit is not consistent with the character of an aged pilgrim. Habitual quietude and self-possession should mark his demeanor. Neither the excitements of the world, nor the agitations of the professing Church, should ruffle your equanimity; for you are too experienced a traveller in this vale of tears to be discomposed by the distractions around you, or to doubt the wisdom and faithfulness of Him who makes all things work together for good.

Your rest in Christ, your trust in him as your Saviour, should be more perfect, more

unwavering than in earlier years. "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day,"* should be the assured expression of your confidence in him. Firmly placed on the Rock of ages, and fully conscious of the security of your position, your closing life should be a realization of that promise in which God has engaged to keep in "*perfect peace*" those whose minds are stayed on him.† The cheerful, all-sustaining faith of an aged Christian is one of the best testimonies to the worth and reality of religion, and furnishes a bright and encouraging example to the lambs of the flock. Weary and distressed by the arduous conflict in which he is engaged, the youthful Christian is frequently too ready to conclude with the desponding patriarch,

* 2 Tim. i. 12.

† Isa. xxvi. 3.