

**50 REASONS IN
FAVOUR OF
YOUTHFUL PIETY**

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50 Reasons in Favour of Youthful Piety by Various

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VARIOUS

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YOUTHFUL PIETY**



"SPRAX, LORD, FOR THY SERVANT HEARETH."

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REASONS

IN FAVOUR OF

YOUTHFUL PIETY.

“Religion! what treasures untold
Reside in that heavenly word!
More precious than silver and gold,
Or all that this earth can afford.”



LONDON:
HAMILTON, ADAMS, & CO.,
PATERNOSTER ROW.

1866.

141. k. 77.

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REASONS

IN FAVOUR OF

YOUTHFUL PIETY.

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ADDRESS TO THE READER.

DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS—

When we look upon *you*, what various thoughts are awakened—what mingled feelings are excited—what wishes evoked! Truly, you are an object of great interest! When we think of your loveliness, buoyancy, hopes, joys, temptations, dangers, opportunities, prospects, and destiny—of the part you will act in this world, and the place you will occupy in the next, we cannot but yield to the tenderest emotions. We think of you as you will be in *yourself*, happy or miserable, honourable or ignoble, adorned with virtue or sullied by vice: “plants grown up in” your “youth,” or rankling and useless weeds;—“corner stones polished after the similitude of a palace;” the

cementing and ornamental links of domestic and religious society, or the disuniting and destructive elements of home and neighbourhood. We think of you in the *relations* you will sustain as husbands or wives, fathers or mothers, masters, mistresses, or servants; and of the blighting or beneficial influence you will exert upon the family, the church, and the world; of the joy or misery you will yield to parents and friends, the hopes you will realise or disappoint. We think of your *future* as either saved or lost—a happy spirit before the throne of God, or a miserable outcast in hell; and we cannot but desire your welfare, and, looking up to God, pray, “Oh that these precious young immortals may live before thee.” Talk of flowers, jewels, treasures, ships, interests—none are comparable with youth. And when we consider that your *future* will be influenced by your *present*; that your eternity will take its stamp and character from your time, that your youth will give the complexion to your manhood or womanhood, should not parents, teachers, friends, and ministers all unite to love you, direct you, care for you, and earnestly pray for your *present*, in order to your *everlasting* good? Men are *infinitely more* valuable than cattle, flowers, shrubs,

birds, fishes, gold, silver, and diamonds; and amongst mankind *you*, dear young friends, are, in many respects, the most interesting class. How, therefore, ought we to feel towards you? When we look upon a fine ship freighted with gold and precious stones, we cannot but wish, "May she have a prosperous voyage." When we gaze upon a choice flower, how we long that it may escape frost and storm, and live fully to develop its beauty. When we behold a noble animal, how we hope that it may grow, and attain to perfect beauty, symmetry, and vigour. And surely every hope, desire, wish, prayer in its purest form, should become intensified whilst we look upon children and youth. We know that youthful piety will ensure your highest happiness and honour, both for time and eternity; and, therefore, the purest and best wish that minister or friend, parent or Sabbath-school teacher, can breathe on your behalf is, that you may devote your YOUTH TO GOD. In the hope that, by the Divine blessing, that wish may be realised, we present you with FIFTY REASONS in favour of YOUTHFUL PIETY. Dear young reader, may we ask one favour—viz., that, if you cannot disprove those Reasons, you will go to the throne of grace, and say, "Oh, my