

**THE SECRET DISCOVERED:
OR UNHAPPINESS A
PROOF OF UNHOLINESS**

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The secret discovered: or Unhappiness a proof of unholiness by Secret J S. W

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P R E F A C E.

ALTHOUGH it is believed that the following pages will be read with interest and advantage, quite irrespective of knowing any thing of the person by whom and the circumstances under which they were composed, yet there may perhaps be some readers who will feel an additional interest in their perusal, when they learn that they were written without the slightest idea of being made public, by a layman, who has been, and still is, actively engaged in commercial pursuits in one of our

most distant colonies. He has been accustomed to spend many of his leisure hours, in noting down those thoughts which habitually occupy his mind, and transmitting them from time to time to his friends at home; and they being anxious to possess these opinions of a beloved relative in a more prominent form, as well as to obtain for them a wider circulation, have gained the consent of the writer of them, to the present publication.

The character of the little work is essentially *practical*, and every attentive and thoughtful reader of it will be struck with the experimental knowledge which it displays of the human heart, and of the various motives by which it is influenced; the different causes of unhappiness are traced one by one, to their source, and it is shown that where

they exist, they must be regarded as evidence that the heart is not yet right with God, and that the blessed gift of *peace*, one of the fruits of the Spirit, has not yet been found. But the peculiar value of the present essay consists, it is believed, in the high and holy standard at which it calls upon every individual Christian, be his circumstances what they may, to aim; and the exceeding strictness with which it requires the work of self examination to be carried on. We are all so prone to make exception, and to find excuses in our own case and to think that there is something either in our natural disposition, our occupations, or our circumstances, which exempts us from obedience to the strict and uncompromising precepts of the Gospel, that we should feel thankful for being reminded that it is an universal

remedy ; and that if we "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness," not only shall we find it hereafter, but it will have its commencement here. This little work bears witness to a great truth, which cannot be forced upon our attention too often, that the truly Christian man, is the only really happy man, and that "godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come."

J. S. W.

July, 1851.

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