

**REMINISCENCES OF THE
BEST HOURS OF LIFE FOR
THE HOUR OF DEATH**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649315611

Reminiscences of the Best Hours of Life for the Hour of Death by Jean Paul Richter

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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(Friedrich)
From the German of Jean Paul Richter.

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BOSTON:
JOSEPH DOWE, 22 COURT STREET.
MDCCLXXI.

BEST HOURS.

JEREMY TAYLOR says, "Bear in thy sickness all along the same thoughts, propositions, and discourses concerning thy person, thy life and death, thy soul and religion, which thou hadst in the best days of thy health, and when thou didst discourse wisely concerning things spiritual. For it is to be supposed that thou hast cast about in thy health, and considered thy change, and the evil day, that thou must be sick and die, that

thou must need a comforter, and that it was certain that thou wouldst fall into a state in which all the cords of the anchor would be stretched, and the very rock and foundation of faith should be attempted ; and whatsoever fancies may disturb you, or whatsoever weakness may invade you, yet consider, when you were better able to judge and govern the accidents of your life, you concluded it necessary to trust in God, and possess your souls with patience. Think of things as they think that stand by you, and as you did when you stood by others ;—that it is a blessed thing to be patient ; that a quietness of spirit hath a cer-

tain reward ; that still there is infinite truth and reality in the promises of the Gospel ; that still thou art in the care of God, in the condition of a son, and working out thy salvation with labor and pain, with fear and trembling ; that now the sun is under a cloud, but it still sends forth the same influence. And be sure to make no new principles upon the stock of a quick and an impatient sense, or too busy an apprehension. Keep your old principles and upon their stock discourse and practice on toward your conclusion."

" When a good man dies, one that hath

lived innocently, or made joy in heaven at his timely and effective repentance, and in whose behalf the holy Jesus hath interceded prosperously,—then the joys break forth through the clouds of sickness, and the conscience stands upright, and confesses the glories of God, and owns so much integrity that it can hope for pardon, and obtain it too. Then the sorrows of the sickness do but untie the soul from its chain, and let it go forth, first into liberty and then into glory ; for it is but a little while that the face of the sky was black, like the preparations of night, but quickly the cloud was torn and rent, the violence

of the thunder parted it into little portions, that the sun might look forth with a watery eye, and then shine without a tear."

