

**LIVE
WHILE YOU LIVE**

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Live While You Live by Thomas Griffith

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THOMAS GRIFFITH

**LIVE
WHILE YOU LIVE**

*James P.
Great Hill
1865*

LIVE WHILE YOU LIVE.

BY THE REV.

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&c. &c.

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DUM VIVIMUS VIVAMUS.

LIVE WHILE YOU LIVE, the Epicure would say,
And seize the pleasures of the present day.*
LIVE WHILE YOU LIVE, the Sacred Preacher cries,
And give to God each moment as it flies.†
Lord, in my views let both united be;
I LIVE IN PLEASURE WHEN I LIVE TO THEE!

DR. DODDIDGE.

* 1 Cor. xv. 32.

† Eccl. ix. 10.

CHAPTER I.

LIFE A PILGRIMAGE.

LIFE is of all things the most sedulously cherished. And yet to a rational being it is not in living but in living well, that genuine happiness consists. Existence itself can become to us a blessing only so far as the great ends of our existence are recognised, adopted, and kept steadily in view. Life is no random gift of aimless kindness; it is a deposit entrusted to us by the Author of our being, to be improved according to the intention of the Donor; it is the means to be employed by us for the attainment of exalted and far distant ends. To use it rightly therefore we must know those ends. On a just conception of life will depend the right conduct of life. We must have viewed it in its various aspects before we can understand its duties, or enjoy the blessedness which, only in the practice of

those duties, it can yield to us. And hence the earlier name for all true practical wisdom and morality was *The Art of Living*,—*The Science of human life*,—*The knowledge of the conditions under which we best may realise the ends of our existence.*

But no one can set before us the true ends of life so correctly or so fully as He who is the Author of that life. In the light of God's truth alone can we perceive with clearness the nature and destination of God's creatures. How important therefore is it to him who would make human life his study, to meditate upon the various aspects in which it is presented to us in the word of God! To assist such meditation I dedicate this little book. I suppose myself addressing those who desire so to live to God here, that they may live with God hereafter. I direct myself especially to the young and inexperienced who are launching on the sea of life with high-raised hopes and heedless confidence; and I seek to fix their attention on that chart which their heavenly Father has provided for them, to

direct their course. May His blessing rest on the attempt! May His Spirit give depth and force to the plain and obvious truths which I affectionately suggest!

Now the first aspect in which Human life is presented to us in Holy Scripture is that of Transitoriness. And the first lesson, therefore, which it impresses on us is the duty and wisdom of passing on from the changeable to the unchangeable, from the temporal to the eternal, from all the vain appearances of this world to the grand realities of that which is to come. "What is your life?" says the Apostle James, "It is even a vapour that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." "So teach us to number our days," exclaims the Psalmist, "that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." And if the holy patriarchs were enabled to maintain their peace and to fulfil their duty in the midst of a wilderness world, it was because they exercised that *faith* which is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen; and remembering