

Early Piety

Ecclesiastes 12:1

While thy spirit is high, while thy pulses are warm,
While the vigour of manhood still strengthens thy arm,
O remember thy God in thy glory and prime!
Ere thy brow is enslaved by the plough share of time.

The world is delusive, yield not to its charms,
Pursue not its follies and court not its charms;
Then pointless its arrows shall fall by thy side
If thou trust in thy God, in His goodness confide.

But dost thou forsake him, then where caus't thou go—
Frail mortal, so helpless, so burthened with woe?
Wilt thou turn to thy clay gods and foolishly pray
In thy depth of extremity "Help me today"?

Nay! trust thou the guides that His mercy has lent,
Receive thou the blessings His goodness hath sent,
And if, far from safety thy dull feet have trod,
Repentant, return and repose on thy God.