

31st March 2020

Notes

**“Another damned, thick, square book!
Always scribble, scribble, scribble! Eh! Mr Gibbon?”**

*Henry Best, Personal memories and memorials
[sometimes attributed to the Duke of Cumberland and George III]*

What did we do before we had Post-It notes? I suspect we would always “scribble, scribble, scribble”, not to fill any “damned, thick, square book”, but to help us remember what to do, where to go, or when something important is due. Reminders, note-to-self, lists ... We have so much to think about that we need an *aide-mémoire* so we won't forget things.

I *could* tell you that this has become necessary for me because of the passing of the years, and that, in older age, my mind is not as retentive as it once was. But it wouldn't be true, because I've *always* needed notes and lists. And as look around me now, there are notes stuck to my computer-screen and scattered around my desk, lists in note-books and entries in electronic diaries. It was ever thus ...

The writer of the book of Ecclesiastes reflects on the frustrations of the human existence and is disappointed with the so-called “good things of life”. So, in chapter, 12, the reader is given this wise advice:

Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come ... when you will say, “I find no pleasure in them” ... Remember [your Creator] before the silver cord is severed, and the golden bowl is broken ... and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

We shouldn't need a Post-It Note to remember that. Mind you, maybe if we did scribble it down as a reminder, then we wouldn't forget so easily.

A prayer for today

Note to self: Remember ... to be thankful for what I have learned today; to be grateful for what I've gained today; to be humble in God's presence today; to appreciate the Love I've known today; to remember that I am remembered today, by the people who love me and the God who gives me life. Amen.

An original reflection by Tom Gordon ©2020

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