A ONE-PAGE SHEET

Pensées

Blaise Pascal

AD 1670 · W. F. TROTTER, 1908

"*The heart has its reasons, which reason does not know.*"

FRAGMENT 277 · W. F. TROTTER, 1908

Greatness and wretchedness

Pascal sets two facts side by side: a human being can think, and a human being is fragile, bored, and mortal. A true account of us must hold both, not flatter one and hide the other.

The heart has its reasons

Reason is a gift, but it is not the only way we know. The heart, in his sense, can know first principles and can love; it is not a mere excuse for a mood.

Diversion

We hunt, talk, and amuse ourselves, he says, in order not to sit still with our own thoughts of death and emptiness. The cure is not more noise, but a turn toward God.

A hidden Go

God does not, in
could miss. There
pride can refuse.

The wager

If you must wage
life lived as if Goo
the whole of Chr

Christ at the

The notes point
Jesus Christ, who
our need.

What a Christian reader should weigh

These are unfinished fragments, not a closed system. The wager is a goad, not a complete apologetic, and Pascal's sharpness in his own controversies is of that fight. Re
mind, not toward despair or toward a party.