

*RYLAND AND THE BAKER.*

About the year 1759, John Ryland, senior, father of the noted Dr. Ryland, being advanced in years, resigned his pastorate of the church in Warwick, removing to Northampton, where for twenty-six years he devoted himself to the conduct of a boy's seminary or boarding-school.

It was during this period, sometime about the year 1790, that an incident occurred which so deeply impressed those present, that one of the eye-witnesses, after some thirty years, related it to a Christian friend, who, nearly forty years later, contributed it to the columns of the *Watchman and Reflector*:—

“The venerable minister, to the great regret of his friends, was, unhappily, sometimes imprudent in reference to his pecuniary expenditure, and, as the result, was not unfrequently in difficulties. He had contracted a debt with his baker and had paid it, but a second claim was made upon him for the amount. He was sure he had paid it, but unhappily could produce no receipt for the money. The baker called upon him with a public officer, and placed before his choice the immediate payment of the debt, or an immediate lodgment in prison. Two or three of his friends happened to be with him when these persons arrived and heard the protracted earnest conversation. The good man's declaration as to payment weighed nothing without the receipt, which, unhappily, seemed gone for ever. The baker and the officer at length denounced the venerable man as a hypocrite, swore at his religion, and prepared to convey him to the county jail for the debt. Here was indeed a crisis, and at its height the gray-haired minister knelt down at the table in the midst of them all and prayed:—“Oh Lord, appear for Thy servant; Thy name is blasphemed, and Thy cause is injured. Oh Lord, for Thy name's sake tell me where that receipt is;”—he paused a few moments, rose with the utmost calmness from his knees, and went direct to a closet, and opening a box there, he brought from it the document. He had never before placed such a paper in that place, nor had he the slightest idea till his prayer ascended to heaven that it was there. His enemies were confounded, while he and his friends rejoiced in the goodness of God; for it made an impression on the minds even of the ungodly, which could never be forgotten. We do not envy the man who does not believe this to have been an answer to prayer.—*Wayside.*

THERE are no sins we can be tempted to commit but we shall find a greater satisfaction in resisting than in committing them.—*Watson.*