

proved true, and the skin so completely grown over it, that the wood could easily be slipped about. The parents were concerned, and time after time was proposed for taking him to a surgeon to have it cut out, but the time never arrived, as the Lord in His wondrous love had ordered it, so that at length it became a mark of identity.

The parents, however, soon discovered that their long lost son had returned to them, not only lost to all sense of his soul's eternal interest, but even to any care for the morality common among men. Deeply grieved and yearning over him with a parent's love, they sought by words of tender remonstrance and entreaty to win him to some consideration of these things, but all in vain ; and his parents' society soon became uncongenial and irksome to the sailor. Two of his brothers had heard of his return, and came from a short distance to spend the day with him, and, as they said, "to have a jolly spree."

It was so ordered in the providence of God, that the gospel of His grace should be preached that night in that place by a stranger ; the father having heard of it, entreated his son to accompany him to the preaching, but he declined, preferring the company of his brothers, who like himself were "without God and without hope in the world ;" and "cared for none of these things." So the three brothers started for the tavern to seek congenial company. Finding him immovable, the father said to his son, "Well, Samuel, if you will not go with me, I will go with