

THE CHRISTIAN CABINET.

For the Wesleyan.

FRAGMENTS OF PIOUS MEDITATION.

NO. I.

Twice had the sun gone down over Sion's western hills, and all was now quiet at the tomb: Death held his sceptre over the Son of God. Still, and silent, the hours passed on; the guards stood by their posts keeping a watch, the rays of the moon gleamed on their helmets and spears.

The enemies of Christ exulted in their success; the hearts of his friends were sunk in despondency and sorrow. The glorious spirit of Redemption waited in anxious suspense, to behold the grand event.

At length the morning star, arriving in the east, announced the approach of light! The third day began to dawn upon the world; when, on a sudden, the earth trembled, and the powers of heaven were shaken! An angel of God descended,—the soldiers shrunk back from the terror of his countenance, and fell prostrate on the ground, and became as *dead men*: for his countenance was like lightning, and his raiment as white as snow. He rolled away the stone from the door of his tomb, and sat upon it,—and the *First-born* from the womb of nature, meets the morning of his resurrection, and becomes the first fruits of them that slept!

He rose—a mighty conqueror from the grave: and returns with blessings from a world of spirits. Never did the sun usher in a day so glorious,—it was the great jubilee of the universe! The morning stars sang together, and all the angelic host shouted for joy! The millions of blessed spirits in heaven joined in the triumph of redeeming love!

The great Father of mercies saw his world restored, and sent down his blessings as the pearly dew of heaven, for the refreshing of the nations.

Oh, my soul! pause, and wonder at the mysteries of *Redeeming Love*! Of what *infinite value* must be the human *soul*, when no other sacrifice was sufficient to redeem it, but the *precious blood* of the *blessed Son of God*!

What angel can fully express that unsearchable Love, which moved the benevolent compassion of our blessed Redeemer, to leave the bosom of his Father, and the glories at his right hand; to exchange the adoration of ministering angels, for the contempt of ungrateful men, in order to redeem us from eternal condemnation?

He came in the form of a servant, yet he was the Sovereign of heaven and earth! He was a God among men! yet he was rejected, abased, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. He came unto his own,—but we esteemed him not; yet he bore our ingratitude with patience, and devoted every moment of his life to the great work of our *Redemption*!

The glittering stars witnessed his midnight meditations; the morning dews descended on his blessed head; the sun never set upon the earth, without bearing testimony to his *Labours of Love*.

And, after living a meek and lowly life, teaching every duty requisite to render us happy in this life, and giving us an assurance full of hope and immortality—*He died*,—even the death of the cross—that we

might live, through him. Having conquered *Death* and *Sin*, he rose triumphant from the grave, and now sits at the right hand of God—ever making intercession for us!

O, my soul! strive with all thy powers to become an object of the Redeemer's love: by living an honest, sober and virtuous life; by keeping his blessed precepts, doing his holy will, seeking an eternal interest in his precious blood,—that is sufficient to wash thee white as snow, and render thee fit for his heavenly kingdom.

Remember! Oh my immortal, redeemed soul—precious even in the love of thy blessed Redeemer,—that thou canst do nothing of thyself; but thou canst do all things through Christ, who is thy strength, and thy exceeding great reward; and who hath said,—“Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”

F.

PERNICIOUS CONSEQUENCES OF INFIDELITY.

[It is to be regretted that Youth so generally think it manly and honourable to throw off the fear of God and restraints of piety, and yield to the unhallowed and destructive influence of infidel principles. By the adoption of these anti-religious sentiments, thousands of individuals, who otherwise might have been respectable and useful, have been brought to an ignominious end, and, it is to be feared, hurried in an unprepared state into an awful eternity. They who can deliberately condemn the Sacred Scriptures, have gone far in the descending path of infidelity, and, have reason to tremble for the fearful consequences, and retrace their steps. They should take warning from the painful experience of others, and learn that true honour and manliness are connected only with the experience and practice of Bible-religion. “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding.” To exhibit the “pernicious consequences of infidelity,” and commend the all-important subject of evangelical piety to the favourable attention of our youthful readers, we place before them the following account (never before published in these provinces, and but lately in England), of a person, who, in youth, had been favoured with religious privileges, but, in maturer age, abandoned them for the mazes of infidelity, and in consequence was brought to a premature grave.]

DEAR SIR,—

A FEW years since, I was requested to go to a town some miles distant from my own residence, to see R. H., who was confined there in the county-gaol under sentence of death. Knowing the chaplain of the place to be a pious man, and a faithful minister of Jesus Christ, I naturally inquired why such a request had been made to me, and on what ground I could expect admission. It was stated in reply, that the prisoner wished to see a minister of my persuasion, that my name had been mentioned to the visiting magistrate, and that he had left an order with the proper authority to grant me free access as long as my services should be required. I immediately felt that a positive, yet painful duty had most unexpectedly devolved upon me, which though it would necessarily be productive of no small degree of inconvenience and distress, I was bound by the most sacred obligations of humanity and religion promptly and perseveringly to discharge; and therefore not only went without delay, but repeated my visits almost daily, as long as the unhappy man who was the object of them was permitted to live. His case, so deeply affecting to myself, I have often thought capable of being considered instructive to others; and since you have requested communications of this character, I will describe it as briefly as possible, and place it at your disposal.