

## JOHN VINE HALL.

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It is very pleasing to turn to the second portion of this good man's life, and gaze upon the beautiful and untarnished picture of more than forty years' earnest consecration to his God and Saviour. Delivered from the thralldom of his besetting sin, his path is now an upward one of pleasantness and peace, and he treads it not with alacrity merely, but with intense enthusiasm. He seemed always under the influence of the sentiment:

"Love I much? I've much forgiven, I'm a miracle of grace."

Burning with desire to make known to others the Saviour he felt to be so precious to his own soul, he laid himself out in every way he could for the spiritual good of those about him. His own family occupied his first thoughts, and for them he was unceasing in fervent prayer and faithful endeavour. The revealings of his diary show a depth of tenderness and a delicacy of affection, that are at once bewitching and instructive. He was a most exemplary husband, and a truly model Christian father. Would there were more like him in these respects! He manifested much interest in the spiritual welfare of his servants and workmen, laboured much on behalf of the prisoners in the County jail, and in short was ready to every good work. In February, 1818, he became connected with the Independent Church at Maidstone, of which he continued a member upwards of thirty-six years. He filled the office of deacon in that church twenty-four years. He was indeed a helper of the truth, his pastor's right hand man, always at his post, not only on the Sabbath, but at the week-evening prayer meeting and lecture. His motto was: "God first,—business next,—pleasure last." He visited much among the poor, and never went to their abodes empty-handed. If he gave tracts to the poor he wrapped up pence in them, and after his death his coat pockets were found stored with packets of this kind, ready for him to give away in his walks. He was "instant in season and out of season" in speaking to others about their eternal welfare, and often records in his diary the pleasure he felt in thus preaching Christ. He wrote many private letters commending the Saviour to those who knew him not. He had more than ordinary conversational powers, and held the pen of a ready writer. These talents he cheerfully devoted to the service of his Lord and Master. But the great work of his life was the preparation and circulation of "THE SINNER'S FRIEND." This unpretending and simple tract ran through an amazing number of editions during its author's life-time, and its multiplication still goes on. The instances of its usefulness that came to Mr. Hall's own knowledge were very numerous, and the blessed results of this one agency will only be fully disclosed in eternity. The origin and history of this little publication are most interesting as showing what humble talent may achieve, if truly consecrated to the Lord's service. Mr. Hall was very fond of "Bogatzky's Golden Treasury." Feeling deeply concerned that books of this kind were not more easily attainable by the poor, it occurred to him that a small selection might be made from his favourite book, printed, and distributed at a low price, or gratis, in the town where he lived. With some hesitation and no little searching of heart, lest he should act without an eye single to the glory of God, he at length applied himself to his benevolent task. Selecting thirty portions from Bogatzky, and writing two portions himself by way of introduction, he put his little work to press,