

was saved in a manner almost miraculous. The reflections Mr Mitchell makes on these incidents are quite characteristic. "God's mercy was seen in these events. Had I perished then, I must have perished in my sins.— But ah! ungrateful wretch that I was, this mercy of God made no impression upon me; I continued in my rebellious course as much as before."— The most awful and alarming providences of God will not convert a soul, unless the Holy Spirit apply and sanctify them. These are the principal notices we have of Mr M.'s life previous to conversion.

Of this event we have fortunately a most distinct account given by himself; and no event in the life of a christian is more important than this. It is always marked as a new era. It is the starting point on the journey to heaven. This event was duly marked and chronicled by Mr Mitchell. A collection of thirty-seven long letters, occasionally on family affairs, but principally on religious topics, is now before us. In the thirty-second letter he tells us his conversion took place on the 23rd of June, 1784; when he must have been about 19 years of age. As we shall see afterwards Mr M. became a missionary in connexion with the London Missionary Society, and received his education principally from them. Previous to being received as a student in the Seminary, it was necessary for him—as it was for every candidate—to give an account of his "religious experience." A copy of the document, which, on that occasion, he presented to the treasurer of the Society, now lies before us, and is entitled: "A short account of my religious experience, call to the ministry, and confession of faith, in a letter to Thomas Wilson, Esq., Treasurer of Hoxton Academy, before I was admitted there a student." In this document we have a full account of the manner in which his conversion was effected, and we shall give it in his own words:—

"The appointed time always drew nearer when God was to manifest his sovereign and rich grace, in effectually calling me from darkness into his marvellous light. Being a little convinced of my folly, I began to attend the means of grace, and regularly attended for about one year. No persuasion or reproaches from my old companions, were able to keep me away. But, alas! I heard the minister preach and did not understand him. Still I thought all was well, if I attended the meeting; and that there was no need of so much fuss about religion. I contented myself without reading or praying, and was happy when I met with any that would join me in reproaching the true worshippers of the meek and lowly Jesus, because, I thought myself better than they were. But when God was pleased to call me by his grace, I beheld things in another light. The first time, I think, God began a saving work upon my heart, was, if I mistake not, in the year 1784. It occurred one day when I was attending the horse-races in Newcastle. Great trouble of mind came upon me (for attending them). The trouble I endured, and the happiness I felt when the race was over, I never will be able to express. From that wicked place I went with a full resolution never to return any more; and blessed be God, I have been enabled to keep it. The next day, when others were going to see the races, I went out to the fields to pray, read and meditate. The Bible became precious to me, prayer my delight, and divine contemplations exceedingly sweet to my soul. When I compared the surpassing pleasures I experienced in this new employ, with what I used to find in the races, I was lost in wonder and admiration. From that time forward I continued to retire to the fields after I was done with my work."

This is the account Mr M. gives of his conversion. He then proceeds to state the evidences he had to convince him that the change was real and scriptural. It was observed by others; it was universal, affecting every pow-