



THE ONE MORAL TRIAL.

Most, if not all, of the persons concerned in the circumstances we are going to relate, have passed beyond the bounds of time. Their names are a secret with the relator, and with him that secret will remain. The facts have their lessons of instruction both to children and parents; and should any, by reading them, be induced to give *one more trial* with the same success, or be favoured with the *one trial more*, to the same change of conduct, the events will not have been recorded in vain. No pious mind will refuse to pray that similar forbearance may ever be blessed with a like reward.

A Minister of the Gospel, the father of a numerous family, had but one son, and this circumstance might be the source of all the parents' sorrow concerning him. On the only son, or only daughter, there is a danger of bestowing an undue share of affection, and of allowing an improper extent of indulgence. This is calculated to give the one child a notion of superiority in the esteem of the parent, which ever must prove unfavourable to the

exercise of discipline on the expanding mind. To the one son of this family, was given a liberal and religious education. He was also the subject of many prayers; and from the strict and long tried integrity of the father, it is equally certain that the purest principles on moral conduct were early inculcated. Being designed for a respectable station in society, his studies were directed accordingly; and for a time he gave fair promise of rendering suitable return for parental care and kindness. Having passed through the required examination in a manner creditable to his talents and industry, and at a considerable expense, compared with the limited resources of his parents, he was placed under the care of a medical gentleman, eminent in his profession, and of highly respectable character; and powers were developed, that promised ultimately to place the aspiring youth in a high professional position. But soon were these hopes blighted. He contracted habits which could not be sustained, and his character was seriously damaged. To sever him from his improper associates,