

ing into covenant with him through Jesus Christ. You believe the Scriptures?"

She pressed my hand, and replied audibly, "I do." She was elevated with a sort of supernatural strength, by the singular interest and momentous importance of her situation. I continued, "you repent sincerely of all your errors, and all your sins; omissions and commissions; and you trust for pardon of them solely in the sufferings and merits of Jesus Christ, the only name under heaven given to men whereby we may be saved?" She replied again; as audibly as before, "I do;" and then she added, "God forgive me, and bless me, for Christ's sake." A drop from each eye bespoke her humble piety. Having advanced so far with such unexpected success, I now put the question, "Will you then be baptized in this faith?" Her answer was fervent, that she wished it without delay.

Upon this, in imitation of the great Apostle, St. Peter, whose steps I was following at a humble distance, I exclaimed, "can any one forbid water, that this person should not be baptized, who repents and believes?" Her sister, unbaptized herself, hastened out of the room to procure the water; anxious, no doubt, whatever might have been her own prejudices, to contribute what she could to alleviate the last moments of so near and dear a relation.

Meanwhile I read some of the more essential prayers, and, when the water was brought, the prayer of consecration; and then dipping my fingers into the water, and enquiring her name, I sprinkled her forehead, and baptized her according to the form prescribed by the Author of our faith.

Her head had fallen a little upon the pillow; but when I approached her with the water, she raised it up herself, and turning her whole face towards me, she presented her forehead direct to my hand, and received the sacred symbol, and afterwards the sign of the cross, in a reverential silence, scarcely breathing, and wholly absorbed in the holy rite. The intenseness of the exertion, however, brought on a second coughing fit, from which she was not recovered so easily, or so soon as before. This determined me not to think then of the other sacrament; so I concluded the service, and withdrew, gently pressing her hand, and thanking God aloud for this signal instance of his mercy, in admitting her into the Christian covenant, and in making me the instrument. She followed me with her eyes, which bore witness to her gratitude, but she was unable to speak.

I hurried away, when I had left the chamber, unable also myself to speak to the rest of the family; nor did any subsequent duty of the day erase from my mind a scene of such deep and touching interest.

On the following day I hoped to be able to administer the other sacrament; and that an opportunity might not be lost by the delay