
SOUL RESTORATION.

will allure her into the wilderness and speak comfortably to her."

Let us further regard soul restoration—

III. IN ITS BLESSINGS.

"And I will give her her vineyards from thence, and the valley of Achor for a door of hope." She is only brought into the wilderness that she might be weaned away from her illicit loves. She is only led into barrenness, and solitude, and fearfulness, that she might realize the preciousness of that all-gracious One whom she has so lightly esteemed. No sooner has she been stript of her foolish pride and made sensible of her shameless folly—no sooner does she begin to blush, and weep, and tremble, than the loving Lord takes her into His arms, and presses her to His bosom, and enriches her with all the wealth of His affection. "And I will give her her vineyards from thence," etc.

Here we have—

1. *Affluent Experiences.*

No imagery conceivable could be more expressive. The wilderness with its barrenness and terrors as by magic turned into a scene of enchanting loveliness and of abounding fruitfulness. The desert transformed into a Paradise. What deep, rich, unfailing joys does this language represent! And yet it is not an exaggeration of the truth. This is precisely how our gracious Lord deals with every returning penitent. The privileges and