

Before noon, he dined with great cheerfulness, hoping to sup in heaven, and drink of the blood of the vine fresh and new in his Father's kingdom. After spending some time in secret prayer, he left the prison about two o'clock, attended by his friends in mourning, full of confidence and courage, but perfectly composed and serene. As he proceeded to the cross, where a high gibbet was erected, he repeatedly requested the prayers of the people; and there being some disturbance on the street when he ascended the scaffold, he said with great composure,—“I entreat you, quiet yourselves a little, till this dying man delivers his last words among you,” and requested them not to be offended that he used a paper to refresh his memory, being so much wasted by long sickness and the malice of physicians. He then read audibly, first from the one side and then from the other, a short speech that he had hurriedly written,—what he had composed at length and intended for his testimony having been taken from him. It commenced with a general confession of his sins and shortcomings in prosecuting the best pieces of work and service to the Lord, and to his generation, and that through temptation he had been carried to so great a length, in compliance with the late usurpers, after having so seriously and frequently made professions of aversion to their way; “for all which,” he added, “as I seek God's mercy in Christ Jesus, so I desire that the Lord's people may, from my example, be the more stirred up to watch and pray that they enter not into temptation.”

He then bare record to the glory of God's free grace and of his reconciled mercy through Christ Jesus,—left “an honest testimony to the whole covenanted work of reformation,”—and expressed his lively expectation of God's gracious and wonderful renewing and reviving all his former great interests in these nations, particularly Scotland,—yea, dear Scotland! He recommended his poor afflicted wife and children to the choicest blessings of God and the prayers and favours of his servants,—prayed for repentance and forgiveness to his enemies,—for the king, and blessings upon him and his posterity, that they might be surrounded with good and faithful councillors, and follow holy and wise councils to the glory of God and the welfare of the people. He concluded by committing himself, soul and body, his relations, friends, the sympathizing and suffering witnesses of the Lord, to his choice mercies and service in earth and heaven, in time and through eternity:—“All which suits, with all others which he hath at any time by his Spirit moved and assisted me to make, and put up accordance to his will, I leave before the throne, and upon the Father's merciful bowels, the Son's mediating merits, and the Holy Spirit's compassionating groans, for now and for ever!”

After he had finished reading, he prayed with the greatest fervour and humility, thus beginning his supplication.—“Abba! Abba! Father, Father, accept this thy poor sinful servant, coming unto thee through the merits of Jesus Christ.” Then he took leave of his friends, and again, at the foot of the ladder; prayed in a perfect rapture, being now near the end of that sweet work he had been so much employed about, and felt so much sweetness in through life. No ministers were allowed to be with him, but his God abundantly supplied his every want. On account of his weakness, he required help to ascend the ladder. Having