

He afterwards sought an interview with the preacher, and anxiously enquired what were the grounds of his averments, that the death of Christ had laid a broad foundation upon which any child of fallen Adam might build his hopes of salvation—that every sinner was equally invited to the Saviour, and would be equally welcome—and that no decree of the Eternal barred any from, heaven but those who refused to fall in with his method of mercy. He was simply referred to the Bible; the passages adduced to support the system he had been taught, were shown to have been narrowed in their application by human interpretations, and he was affectionately urged to search the Scriptures for himself with prayerful attention. The interview was deeply interesting: it was touching to witness the old man's child-like candour, yet sensitive apprehension lest he should be led astray. His streaming eyes, earnest gesture, fervent exclamations, all betokened a mind panting after peace derived from truth. The result was gracious. The perception in God's own word, of the all-sufficiency of the finished work of the Lord's Christ—of its precise adaptation to the circumstances of every case—of the unobstructed path to the throne of heavenly grace, to which the sinner is entreated to approach—and of the unqualified welcome given by the Mediator to all who come just as they are; the believing perception of these glorious truths burst on his hitherto darkened and perplexed mind, as breaks on the faint and straying traveller the bright and sweet effulgence of morn. Then, as he was wont to say, his long borne burden, like that of Bunyan's pilgrim, fell off at the cross; and from the terror and gloom of sin, he passed into the sunshine of God's full and free forgiveness.

Having entered a new world, he pursued his heaven-ward course "looking unto Jesus." With how much delight have I heard him, many years afterwards, at the meetings of the church, pour forth his whole soul in prayer and praise, in rapturous adoration and exulting joy! He loved to expatiate on the freeness and fullness of the Saviour's grace, the entire suitableness and trust-worthiness of the work of Christ; and he did so, as one who obviously felt what he uttered, and in terms so heart-melting that almost all present were sensibly touched, and not many eyes were dry. The discovery, by the perusal of the Scriptures, of his educational errors concerning doctrines, made him more willing to bring to the same infallible test his previous views of Christ's Kingdom and ordinances; and the result was, he became a member of the church under my care, and afterwards an office-bearer. His favourite maxims were, "universal infirmity requires universal forbearance;" "we are praying for forgiveness, ought we not to be forgiving?" Having a good deal of leisure, and a well-stored mind, and being aware from experience how much the possession of spiritual comfort depends on the extent of scriptural knowledge, he frequently visited the families of members and hearers, and introduced conversation on religious subjects. From his shrewd and memorable remarks, and engaging, yet instructive stories, our departed friend was a peculiar favourite with the young members of the congregation. It was affecting to see, at the close of the meetings, the youth crowd around the old man, and accompany him home, that on the way they might listen to the wisdom of experience. Remembering the bitter cup he had drank, while confounding privilege with duty, and *vice versa*, he was especially solicitous to impress them with a sense of the importance of keeping them distinct, and observing their due order. The simple mode he adopted imparted light to some minds on this important subject, whom public discourses had left in comparative darkness. Would to God that thus all the Lord's people were prophets.

The period at length arrived, when, worn out by the infirmities of years, the aged disciple must die. And then were strikingly manifested the divine resources of the religion of the crucified Redeemer. Sleep fled from his eye-lids during many days and nights; his body was weak and its functions were breaking down; but his mind was tranquil and happy, and the immortal spirit, waxing stronger in faith, was evidently preparing for its last flight to "mansions in the skies." Week after week he lingered, with no expressed desire to live, but with the single concern to be useful when he could to perishing men. He was not one of those selfish professors, who, if they suppose themselves safe in the life-boat, care not for the drowning multitudes around, but shut their ears to the cry of despair, and refuse to move a finger to help a dying sinner into the only