

Alas ! why do we not entertain more worthy, more loving thoughts of Christ ? Or do you think he will have mercy on others, and not on you ? But are you not sinners ? And did not Jesus Christ come into the world to save sinners ? If you say you are the chief of sinners, I answer, that will be no hindrance to your salvation ; indeed it will not, if you lay hold on him by faith. Read the evangelist, and see how kindly he behaved to his disciples, who fled from and denied him. Go tell my brethren, says he ; he does not say, go tell those traitors, but, go tell my brethren, and Peter. As though he had said, go tell my brethren in general, and poor Peter in particular, that I am risen again. Oh, comfort his drooping heart ; tell him I am reconciled to him. Bid him weep no more so bitterly ; for though with oaths and curses he thrice denied me, yet I died for his sins, and I am risen again for his justification. I freely forgive all. Thus slow to anger, and of great kindness, was our all-merciful high priest. And do you think he has changed his nature, and forgets poor sinners, now he is exalted to the right-hand of God ? No, he is the same yesterday, to day, and for ever, and sitteth there only to make intercession for us. Come then, ye harlots, come then ye publicans, come ye most abandoned sinners, come and believe on Jesus Christ. Though the whole world despise and cast you out, yet he will not disdain to take you up. Oh amazing ! Oh infinitely condescending love ! Even you he will not be ashamed to call his brethren. And Oh ! how will you escape, if you neglect such a glorious offer of salvation ? What would the damned spirits now in the prison of hell, give, if Christ was so freely offered to their souls ? And why are we not lifting up our eyes in torments ? Does any one, out of this great multitude, dare say he does not deserve damnation ? If not, why are we left, and others taken away by death ? What is this, but an instance of God's free grace, and sign of his good will towards us ? Oh then, let God's goodness lead us to repentance ! Oh, let there be joy in heaven over some of us repenting ! Though we are in a field, yet I am persuaded the blessed angels are