

A SHORT ACCOUNT OF ABRAHAM SLOCOMBE.

Of Wilmot, Nova-Scotia.

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THE subject of this very brief Memoir was the son of John and Rebecca Slocombe, and was born Nov. 21st. 1810. His natural disposition was remarkably amiable; he cultivated habits of industry; and his attention to the interests of the family were unwearied. It is much to be regretted that in Nova-Scotia as well as in other new countries, particularly in the outer settlements, the means of educating youth are exceedingly limited. Generally the straitened circumstances, but more frequently the carelessness of parents, or the party feeling of individuals oppose a barrier to the establishment of Schools, and the settlement of suitable Masters; and the consequence, much to be deprecated, is, that the most advantageous time of improving the rising generation, is allowed to pass, and the juvenile mind to be occupied by a baneful growth, which years of subsequent culture may be unable to eradicate. Abraham Slocombe however was favoured: He received, by the attention of his parents, a common education; by a kind Providence he was preserved from those evils which are common to youth;—being naturally of a different and thoughtful disposition, he formed no intimate acquaintance with persons of irreligious character, and strict morality was evinced in every part of his conduct.

In the seventeenth year of his age he was visited with the measles. This affliction, sanctified by a gracious God, became the means of leading him to religious thoughtfulness and self-examination. The Spirit of the Lord wrought powerfully upon his heart: he saw clearly, and felt painfully, that he was naturally depraved—that, outwardly moral as he had been, he had nevertheless in principle transgressed against God;—that to live and die in sin, would be an awful and bitter thing. He felt the pangs of an awakened conscience, and was afterwards heard to say that “the sufferings of his body were not to be compared with those of his mind.” The spirit of a man may sustain his infirmity; “but a wounded spirit who can bear.” God alone could save him.—Of this he was thoroughly convinced; and encouraged by Gospel promises he renewed his heart to a throne of grace—he fixed the eye of faith on Christ crucified for his sins, and under the influence of the blessed Spirit cast his helpless soul on the atonement of the Saviour, and was enabled immediately to rejoice in the enjoyment of “Peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

It is a position too clearly maintained by revelation, and too frequently corroborated by painful experience, now to admit of question, that gracious influence can be retained, and consequently advancement made in Godliness, only as the utmost prayerful and self-denying vigilance are employed. To such vigilance, habits of thoughtlessness, to say no mention of those of dissipation and immorality, so frequently