

Now, neither the father nor mother of the boy could read; and most likely they had never before heard this chapter read to them. If they had, they certainly had not listened to it as they did at this time; for, as soon as the boy had read the third verse, his father stopped him, and cried out, "You are surely reading wrong.—'Except a man be born again'—you must have read it wrong."

The little reader was sure that these were the very words; but this did not satisfy the father, who said that the teacher must come to tell him whether or not his son was right.

The teacher was glad to go to the miserable abode on such an errand: and when he got there, he took the Testament, and beginning to read at the same place, soon came to the words, "Except a man be born again."

Well, this was just the same as his son had read, and the man could no longer doubt that the exact words were in the book; but this only increased his difficulty. "How can a man be born again?" he asked.

The teacher then told him, that the new birth spoken of there meant a changed heart; that a person who had passed through such a change would no longer live for his own sinful pleasures, but for the glory of God. He said that, instead of the love of sin, new desires and affections would spring up in the heart; that there would be a love of holiness, and a constant fear of doing what is forbidden by God. He said also, that this change of heart and of affection would produce a change of conduct; that the man thus changed would forsake the sins which he had before loved, and become sober, honest, industrious, and frugal; and also, in all things would adorn the doctrine of God, through the mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ, and on account of what he had done and suffered.

These words made a great impression on the mind of this poor sinful

and ignorant man, he exclaimed, "We are all wrong;" The truth of the Gospel had touched his heart with power, and caused him to feel what a wretch he had lived through the whole of his life.

He looked around him, and saw everything to convince him that his own sins had brought him to pain and desolation, even in this world; and he felt that they were hurrying him on to eternal destruction. Like the jailer, of whom we read in the Acts of the Apostles, his thought was, "What must I do?" No doubt, after this, he was shown the way of salvation more clearly; and his conduct gave great hope that he had experienced what it was to be born again. After several years, it was found that the sins he had once loved and followed had been forsaken, and that the word of God was the rule of his life. His wife too became an altered woman: she was now no longer neglectful of her children, and caring for nothing but her own sinful gratification, but desirous of learning the will of her Maker and Saviour, and of doing it.

You may be sure that such a change as this made a difference in many other respects. The money that they earned, and which once would have been squandered in sin, was employed in making home decent and happy. The children, as well as themselves, were comfortably clothed and fed; by degrees, their abode was furnished with tables and chairs, bed and bedstead; while cleanliness gave additional value to every new comfort they enjoyed. They were no longer "all wrong;" but had reason to hope, and others had reason to hope for them, that the Gospel, which had brought such a change to their dwelling, had also been the power of God unto salvation, because it was believed and obeyed. Do you not think, then, that these persons were proofs of God's mercy; and that they had great rea-