

in the secrets of nature, have yet allowed themselves to be wholly led astray, in the matter of their soul's salvation. They bartered it in the clear light of the Gospel—they had their whole time given them on earth, to make sure their interest in saving mercy, and yet they have bartered away the privilege of eternal life. It is a calamity so tremendous in its issues, that every spot of earth is marked in human history, where it occurs. What thoughtful traveller for years to come, will be able, save in heartless mood, to cross that fatal bridge over the Desjardins Canal, where a few weeks ago, so many lives were lost in a Railway train, and from which tidings flew, that raised a wail of woe in many a bereaved Canadian home. The reflective mind, in passing the scene of this appalling catastrophe, will think on the varied circumstances, and musings, perhaps, of the unhappy travellers, as some of those are brought to light after—one with a large sum of money on his person—another with an invitation to a friendly party—a wife, sitting side by side with her husband, looking in love on a dear child—a friend leaning on the arm of a friend—a pastor just returning from preaching Christ to his fellow sinners—when all at once came the awful plunge—the moment of alarm—the crushing of bodies to a terrible death, and then the appearing of many souls at the bar of God. The scene of such a catastrophe as such, is rendered memorable and sacred to reflection for a long while to come. And yet we know not, if the spot where a human being bartered away the best birthright of his undying soul, is not the scene of a deeper woe, and of a yet louder wail. There is, indeed, here no mangling of limbs or shedding of blood; there is no crashing of material things, or voices of alarm to indicate the occurrence of a mighty calamity. All may be outwardly quiet as a summer's eve—but this very quiet is ominous, when you know what has there been done. When you see that young man on his way to the house of God on a Sabbath morning. The Holy Spirit has been striving in him of late with special fervour. He has been made to feel his sins and to fear the judgment, and to value the Saviour, and to inquire "What must I do to be saved." He meets, you observe, three youths, his companions, on their way to spend the day in an excursion into the country. He is pressed to join them. He remembers his recent fears and hesitates. But one tells him of the pleasure to be enjoyed; another rallies him on his seriousness of late; the third appeals to their former friendship. He listens, he yields, in the face of such injunctions against the convictions of conscience he gives way, and the barrier of principle is broken down. It is the turning point in that young man's history for time and eternity. It is the work of only a few moments, but ministering angels observe that a birthright has been sold, and they retire from the sad scene covering their faces with their wings. Is it not time, then, for all of us to be warned, since deception here is so easy.

(3) Be warned not to sell your best birthright—if *once sold it is gone from you forever*. Of Esau, it is said, "Ye know that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected; for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears." The warning is not that he could find no plan of repentance *for his sin*, for there is no sinner shut out from repentance unto salvation, if he only desire to mourn in penitence before God. But the meaning here is, he found, no plan for repentance, or change *in his father's mind*, so that after disposing of the birthright, he should yet inherit the blessing. And his history here teaches us a most solemn lesson to all, not to barter away the best birthright in offered mercy. If sold, the bad bargain can never be recalled, and it may be added, the loss entailed can never be compensated. On these momentous points, this exchange differs from all earthly transactions. Though you close a ruinous bargain in worldly commerce, your entreaties and tears, may move a fellow man to give up his claim on you, for though you entail great loss by an unwise bargain, to-day, you may make up for the injury, by superior prudence in the time to come. But if you once part with the privilege of your birthright offered in mercy, it can neither be redeemed nor remedied to all eternity. Oh! be warned then, dear