

or the brevity of human life, terror would seize upon me, and I would feel the foundation I stood upon shaken.

I wanted something that I could not comprehend. I felt distress, fear, and terror in my heart, and in this unhappy situation I would retire, and attempt to call upon God; but alas! it added to my trouble, for I had no utterance when I attempted to pray. I thought if I had a suitable place of resort for that purpose, I should find greater liberty in prayer. Accordingly I sought a place in a thicket of bushes, some distance from my father's house, where I retired upon the Lord's day, for meditation and prayer.

I many times felt very solemn while thinking upon my situation. But still my mind was dark, and I could not obtain a spirit of prayer.

I met with several accidents, which caused death to appear very near, and alarmed me very much. I was one day in the chamber, walking across the floor, when a board slipping off the beam, I fell suddenly through, with the small of my back upon a stone of the hearth, which rendered breathing so difficult, that I thought I was going to die. I said in my heart, where shall I go? shall I go to heaven, or shall I go to hell? I felt something like an inward whisper that I should go to heaven. I felt peace in mind; my conscience did not accuse me, and I believed I should go to heaven; for I never thought of death with such calmness before. But, however, when I recovered, I was much alarmed, and found the thoughts of death to be as terrifying as ever, and considered this as a solemn warning to be prepared for its approach.

I set up fresh resolutions to be more earnestly engaged for the salvation of my soul; but I lacked the power to