

THE THREE WARNINGS.

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A YOUNG man whose course of life for several years had been so desperately wicked as to attract more than a passing notice, had been brought on three several occasions to what was thought to have been his death-bed. Three times he had solemnly declared that he was repentant, and vowed that if God would be pleased to restore his health, the remainder of his life would be consecrated to his Creator and Redeemer. Three times, God who is patient, and merciful, heard his supplications and responded to them, but alas! his fears were no sooner dispelled, and the danger passed than he returned to his sins as "The sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire." (II Pet. ii. 22), and like the unclean spirit in the parable (Luke xi. 26) "The last state of that man is worse than the first."

Again he was brought to his bed by a prolonged and dangerous illness; the most terrible agony possessed his spirit; prayers, readings, conversations did not appear to produce either hope or consolation. One day when he was in an agony of despair, he asked one who was seated near his bed to get the members of the family to retire to their rooms and pray for him. This they at once did and he was left alone. Whilst they were all engaged in prayer, (and as it was afterwards known, *at the same moment*) these terrible words came before the mind of each: "Because I have called,—and ye refused; I have stretched