

are instances innumerable upon record, in which the delinquencies of a single member have plunged a whole family in irretrievable wretchedness; causing the cry of lamentation to be heard, where the voice of joy and gladness had filled the bosom with delight.

On a cold frosty night, about the middle of December, William left his father's house for the purpose of attending a ball, agreeably to an arrangement which he had previously made with some of his profligate companions. The stars glittered in the heavens, and the air was remarkably bracing. Anticipating the pleasures which awaited him in the ball-room, he paced rapidly along the slippery pavement. On passing through — street, situated in a densely populated part of the city, he was attracted by the lights in a Wesleyan chapel. Supposing that the chapel was opened for divine service, and seeing a number of decently-dressed persons flocking towards the door, he involuntarily paused at the entrance of the building. He listened to the singing, and was charmed with the melody of the voices. A feeling of curiosity, which he could not withstand, induced him to mingle with the congregation; and for the first time in his life he found himself seated in a Methodist chapel. To the sermon he listened with marked attention: the language was chaste and classical, and the arguments were clear and forcible. During its delivery, the audience appeared to be deeply affected; and the most solemn stillness pervaded the whole assembly. But the vital doctrines of the Gospel, which formed the more prominent part of the discourse,—the guilt and depravity of man, the love of Christ in dying for the chief of sinners, and the necessity of a personal application to Him, through faith in His blood, in order to secure the remission of sins,—these were the truths which produced the most powerful impression on the heart and soul of William. He felt that he was a sinner; and more than once he was observed to raise his handkerchief to his eyes, to wipe away the tears which had been running from a broken and contrite spirit.

When the service had closed, instead of proceeding to the ball, as he had previously intended, he retraced his steps homeward; and with a heavy heart, he sought the retirement of his chamber. The agitation of his mind, arising from the deeply-solemn truths which he had heard, the load of guilt which he felt to be an almost insupportable weight upon his conscience, and the painful apprehensions of the judgments of the Almighty overtaking him, tended effectually to banish sleep from his eyes.

Most of the following day was spent in the seclusion of his