

while you are on earth. Oh, will you not say "Come, O blessed Jesus, and take possession of my soul. I make you most welcome to come and abide with me for ever."

SIXTH CLASS.—*Those who once professed to be disciples of Christ, but who have apostatized from that profession.* Your case is even worse than those belonging to the former class inasmuch as you have enjoyed more opportunities and made a greater profession. No language" says a certain writer "can describe the mischief of backsliding and where wilful and continued, no words can express its enormity. It is to give up God—to give up Christ—to give up hope—to give up heaven—to make oneself the slave of Satan and prepare oneself for a miserable eternity." The word of God represents confirmed backsliders as "turned after Satan"—"as drawing back unto perdition"—"as crucifying to themselves afresh the Son of God and putting him to an open shame." And are not these denunciations truly awful? Should they not terrify and alarm you? Should they not cause you to seek for mercy while it may be found? Oh, how awful the guilt which you contracted, in sitting down at a communion table with no love to Christ in your hearts! Often perhaps has the wine been handed to you by God's ministers, but as often have you counted it an unholy thing. Often have you betrayed him to an ungodly world. O thou backslider, is this thy return for all his mercy and love? Does not your heart burn within you, when you think of his bloody sweat and his bleeding side—and when you hear him crying out "My soul is exceeding sorrowful even unto death"—or "My God My God—why hast thou forsaken me."

Look back to the time when you first professed yourself

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