

more frequently. I spoke to her about this : she answered, by asking me to go with her some day. I strove to find fault with her, but her conduct, always kind, affectionate, and obedient, was now more so than ever. About this time I was visited by a severe illness, the consequence of my excesses. Death stared me in the face; my sins crowded into my recollection; a horrible dread overwhelmed me. I entreated my wife and her friends to pray for my soul. Never shall I forget her joy when she heard this request. From that moment she seemed more at ease when talking with me. She read to me from the Bible, and often conversed about serious things. I was very desirous to recover, that I might have time and opportunity to do away my past sins by more correct conduct in future; and I thought that if I did so, I should be sure to go to heaven. O how far was I from the knowledge of the Gospel! But my heart was yet too hard, and (vile as I was) too full of self-righteousness to trust in a Saviour, and desire pardon through him.

"As I grew stronger, the natural enmity of my heart against religion was again manifested. I endeavoured to drive away these thoughts, and again became averse to my wife's proceedings. One day, when she asked me to accompany her to public worship, I broke out into a fit of passion, and declared that if she ever said another word on the subject I would throw all her books into the fire. My poor wife, as you may suppose, was much grieved: her only comfort was, that her daughter began to seek the knowledge of the Saviour.

"Some months afterward one of my companions in sin died. His end was dreadful. I was struck with this, and often thought upon it. One day, I was walking in the fields, when a person passed me, and put a little tract into my hand, saying, 'My friend, this little book is worth your attention.' To my surprise I found it contained a short and earnest address upon death and judgment: it showed me the danger of my state, and pointed out the only means whereby I could escape, and earnestly called upon the reader to flee to Christ for the pardon of his sins. I still endeavoured to drive away these thoughts, but could not.

"One evening, as I wandered abroad, I heard a person who was walking before me call to another, and pointing to some people who were entering a place of worship, he exclaimed, 'There, Tom, are the godly ones! Have you a mind to go and be made a saint?' These words (I knew not why) excited my curiosity. I entered the place, and sat down. The service had already begun, and the minister was in prayer before sermon. Never shall I forget his words;—they pierced my heart and soul;—I could think of nothing but my wretched state, and the wrath of God, which I so justly deserved.

"I did not tell my wife what was passing within my mind, but waited with impatience for the Wednesday following, when there would be service again. As I entered I saw my wife and daughter: their countenances declared their joy at seeing me there. The minister who preached chose for his text, 'Behold the

Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world,' John i. 29. The picture which he drew of the state of man, lost and ruined by sin, and filled with enmity against God, seemed as if intended for me. I could not but see my own likeness, and from that moment I felt that I could not obtain salvation unless it were given me from above. I was now filled with anxiety respecting my soul.

"My wife and daughter followed me in silence when the service was over. I saw they were afraid to speak to me, and I said to them, 'I see you are afraid of me, and I do not wonder, for I now see what a monster of iniquity I am.' At these words they endeavoured to console me. My wife said, 'O do not despair! Seek the Lord and he will be found;—cast your burden upon him, and he will sustain you. He can heal your soul;—yes, Jesus himself now invites you. O do not hesitate, but cast yourself upon him;—with him is mercy and forgiveness!'

"Need I add any farther particulars? The Holy Spirit has been pleased to lead me to the knowledge of Christ, and to show me what the Saviour has done and suffered to bring us near to God. This now appears clear to me; but the Holy Spirit alone can teach me that Christ has suffered for me, the just for the unjust, 1 Pet. iii. 18; that he has born my sins in his own body on the tree; and that the chastisement of my iniquity was laid upon him. When I was thus led to feel that he gave himself for our sins, Gal. i. 4, then my sins became hateful to me: I felt that they nailed him to the cross, and I earnestly desired to dedicate myself to his service, and to live to Him who died for me.

"I may truly say that my experience since that time has been one of peace and joy. Thanks to the Lord, who gave me in my dear wife a faithful guide and counsellor, to whom I can always resort. We have not been without our trials. You know, Sir, that those who seek to walk in the paths of the Lord must expect to meet with opposition from the world. My former connections have endeavoured to trouble me as much as they could: they accuse me of hypocrisy, and utter many falsities about me. Often have I been tempted to say, 'Wherewithal shall we be clothed and fed? But I have always had reason to take shame to myself for my unbelief; and the many mercies which I have experienced, prove to me that the Lord will not forsake those whom he calls his own.' "No," said I, "he will not leave you; he cannot forget his people; he is faithful, and his word of promise standeth sure. Christ has given himself for you, and in possessing him you have all things; being heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ," Rom. viii. 17.

It was now late. We took leave of the poor watchmaker, saying we would call upon him the next morning.

## REFLECTIONS.

"Well," said my friend, when we were in the street, "this surpasses all that I could have supposed. This, then, is one of those men who are called enthusiasts, knaves, hypocrites, and even accused of li-

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