

sin; and remember, that even if pardoned at the last, through the mercy and goodness of God, through repentance and heartfelt sorrow, for Christ's sake, yet the memory of a wilful transgression of the commandments of God, must be in itself a bitter punishment to any but a hardened and heartless offender; and that a very short subjection to the dominion of Satan, in the indulgence of evil passions, may be a source of grief and sorrow to the last moment of your lives. But as the infirmities of our nature will cling to even the most faithful and devoted followers of Christ, while they continue on earth, and not a day passes in which some evil temper or rebellious passion does not interpose in some way or another with the peaceful serenity of a Christian course of life, it is consolatory to trace in the admissions of the most favoured servants of God, the proof that they have been tried and hindered in their progress, even as those of the present day. And we may find in the writings of the apostles, that they too rested all their hopes on the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, and not on any obedience or piety of their own. St. Paul, who was the chosen servant of God, and who may be considered as the most perfect example of holiness that was ever shewn by any mere human being, laments again and again the strength of those evil propensities by which he was encumbered. Look for the seventh chapter of the epistle to the Romans, Amy, and read from the eighteenth verse to the end of the chapter.

*Amy.*—“For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

“For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.