

In this state of mind he attended the preaching of the Word, went from one place to another to see if he could hear anything that would meet his case, point out his sin, show the depravity of the heart, and discover a way of relief to his soul. It was under these circumstances that he was at length seen in this house of God; the subject suited his case. came home to his heart, and fixed him here for life. Most happily, in these circumstances, he happened to be noticed by, and to fall into the company of, a most wise, judicious, and serious friend, admirably qualified to converse with a person in this state of mind, who was one of the greatest ornaments of this church I ever knew, who might be said to be always upon the watch for souls, and has been an instructor and helper of many, and I believe was a great blessing to him. He mentioned him to me with tokens of surprise at first seeing him under this roof, and then with rejoicing astonishment at the great things the Lord seemed to be doing for him. After a time he was received with great satisfaction to the communion of the church; and from that time, during the subsequent twenty years of his life, he maintained a most consistent, honourable, exemplary course; attending under a ministry which he most highly prized he attained to great eminence in the Divine life. The pastor used to observe 'that it was one of the most remarkable and satisfactory cases of conversion he ever knew. The change was most decided; he was manifestly a new creature; old things have passed away; all things have become new.'

He became remarkable for the exercise of those very graces which were most opposed to the sins in which he had formerly indulged. There was a wonderful ardour and piety in his devotion; his whole heart seemed wrapped up in devotion when addressing the Divine Being himself, or joining with others; and there was a fixed and settled attention in hearing the Word, which would have the appearance of an affectation of sanctity to a stranger, but which to them that knew him appeared all reality. In connection with this, there appeared to me always uncommon attainments in the amiableness and excellency of the Christian spirit and temper. How did he use to pray and breathe after the mind that was in Christ, and dwell in prayer and conversation on the sweet and charming excellencies of the blessed Jesus, and long to transcribe and make them his own; and his attainments in His Spirit were of no common kind. His house, his heart, and his purse, might be said in a sense, to be the resort of the poor and needy. There was a mildness, and meekness, and candour about him truly exemplary; a harsh censure, an unjust reproach never issued from his lips. He was not one of those professing Christians that talk about Christ and His righteousness, and salvation by Him, but experimentally and practically make light of His spirit and precepts; but the Gospel seemed to go down to the bottom of his soul, and carry its salutary influence through all the branches of his character. He was perfectly fair and honourable in all his dealings, seeking not his own but the good of others; his supreme aim in this respect was to act upon the golden rule. In this view he had a good report of all men. One who had considerable dealings with him, and knew him well, said 'that he who knew him best would value him most.' With this devotional, amiable, and conscientious excellency was united all the depth of Christian humility. How deeply did he lament over former sins, and bitterly deplore the remains of sinful habits and unsubdued corruptions!—almost envying the piety of early Christians; and he would speak with uncommon earnestness of the importance of being truly religious betimes. And if there was a man that felt the necessity of a Redeemer, or that carried with him a constant sense of his obligations to Him, this was the man. 'He was one of the most eminent instances,' said the pastor, 'I ever knew of humility and holiness, grace and duty, dependance and practice—deep humble dependance connected, with the most earnest efforts, and aims to attain every branch of the Christian character, and to stand complete in all the will of God.'—*Facts &c., in the life of Toller.*