

About two years before this date, this poor woman attended our place of worship, and became an enquirer, and was so, for a very protracted period, but I never could make her feel her guilt, as a lost sinner, nor convince her of the necessity of complete salvation in Jesus. What she wanted was to be admitted as a member of our church. One evening I pressed the subject of personal religion closely upon her, and its necessity in order to be a member of Christ's church—membership in a church would not save her. She became exceedingly irritated, and said in a very spiteful manner, "If I cannot get into your church, I can get into another as good. I talked to her mildly, and endeavoured to convince her of the necessity of being born again, when she flew out of the room in a passion, with some such expression as, "You will not be troubled any more with me." Of course she attended our place of worship no more, and for two years I had not seen her—now that which made me so hopeless, in seeing my old enquirer, was, I had made so many attempts before to make her understand and believe the gospel, and all in vain, that I thought it was of little use to renew the effort.

I am ashamed to say it, but it is true, that rather as a matter of form, than in any real desire or hope of saying any thing which would benefit the poor wretched sinner. I stated to her the gospel, dwelling particularly on these passages—"God so loved the world"—"I am the way, the truth, and the life,—and "It is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation." I prayed, and left her, intending to visit her again. I called on the following evening, and was surprized beyond measure at the marvellous change which had taken place on her mind. Her body was still dreadfully racked with pain: when I referred to this, she replied, "That's nothing when one has peace with God." She then dwelt in a strain of humble penitence, on her past life, and referred with deep humility to her former stupidity when an enquirer—but now she said "God himself has taught me, and I am very happy." She now dwelt with subdued joy on the three passages to which I directed her attention, and I am sure she now saw in them much more beauty and glory than did the preacher; and what farther surprized me was, every word I had said, and all I had uttered in prayer she vividly remembered and dwelt upon. God then delivered me a lesson I have not since entirely forgot. I now took pleasure in conversing with her, and opening to her more fully the plan of salvation; but contrasting the past with the present. I often said to myself while I sat in that miserable closet, when ruin seemed to smile, "Is this reality or a dream?" O! when God works, what mind is too impervious for the rays of his light? What heart too hard for the softening impressions of his love in Christ Jesus?

and what soul too worldly and grovelling for the elevating influence of his inheritance of the saints in light, not to move upward?

I left her, intending to visit next day, but but was prevented through indisposition; but the following day I went down, but found, she had gone the way of all flesh. The event had sobered the whole family. The room wore now an air of greater comfort and cleanliness than it had done before, and there lay the cold remains of a dear sister in Christ, decently prepared for the narrow house. I sat down with the mourning relatives, and made some enquiries as to what she had said since I last saw her. "O!" they replied, "sir, it is extraordinary what she said to us all. She made us read the Bible, and mark certain passages, and told us to be sure and think much about them." They showed me many of the passages. They all bore upon Christ and his great work. Her's had indeed been a calamitous history; and endured without the consolations of religion; but I hope she died in the Lord. A stormy night yielding to a calm morning without clouds. Her life a troubled dream, giving place to the serene and holy wakefulness of paradise. "This day thou shalt be with me in paradise." The quiver of spiritual life felt in the last stages of her mortal career here, waxing into full vigour above.

1. Preachers should never forget that the excellency of the power is of God; their most simple, lucid, and impressive statements of the truth as it is in Jesus, may have been uttered a hundred times to the same person, and to all appearance without effect; yet despair not of the 101. "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thy hand; for thou knowest not what will prosper this or that."

2. The undue importance which may be attached to the mere membership of a church. Great care should be taken in the admission of members, that they are really new creatures in Christ Jesus. The rage for numbers, in this day of statistics, may prove a temptation, against which we should be on our guard. But as with the utmost care, many may be in the church who should not be there, it becomes every one to try himself by the test of truth and godliness; for, even in the little family of twelve, found at the feast of the Passover with Jesus, the empire of evil had its representative there. So now, in the church of Christ, that empire may still have its representative, and let each see that he is not the individual.

3. Finally, Is there any thing too hard for God to do? How hopeless, to all human appearance, was the condition of this woman; she had been long an enquirer, yet found not the truth reduced to the greatest temporal wretchedness through the beastly intemperance of her husband. A group of helpless children making their appeal to

the lorn heart of an afflicted mother; and a disease which seemed to make the patient feel pain at every pore. We might have expected she could not hear because of the hardness of her bondage, yet even then, the grace of God was equal to the task of illumining her mind, and changing her heart. An unbelieving philosopher might even admit, that there is in the system of grace of which christians speak, some mysterious, spiritual energy that can make minds narrowed to a point admit such sublime truths of God; and souls imbued with sensuality quiver with such moral sentiments and joyous hopes, verily it is "the glorious gospel of the blessed God."

Sweet the moment, when shall it appear,
When bright o'er my storm beaten soul,
The dawn of a sabbatic year
Shall arise, and eternity roll.

When, O bliss, I'll be spotless and pure
As the God, as the God I adore.
What now is my pain to endure,
Shall torment, and defile me no more.

With Christ, and seraphim band,
My loud, my glad anthem I'll raise;
For none sure, in that happy land,
Shall have such occasion for praise.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN OBSERVER.]

SINGULAR COINCIDENCE.

To those who fear and love God, it is cheering to read in His holy word, "The Lord reigneth." The assurance, that a Being of infinite wisdom and goodness presides over the affairs of men, and orders all things for the welfare of those who love Him, sustains their minds, when ready to sink under the ills of life. Such characters read the history of the saints of former days, with an interest unknown to others; and not only so, but in surveying the way by which themselves have been led, and controuled, they see that a Divine hand has been employed, "dispensing good and ill." They know that they neither are, nor can be forsaken, nor forgotten by a faithful God; that He will not fail to guide them with his counsel, in this world, nor afterwards to receive them to His glory. In this confidence they feel it to be their duty to submit to His will; cheerfully to acquiesce; and with all the dispensations of his providence; and to repose with unwavering confidence in the assurance "that all things work together for good to them that love God." Such is the present advantage of those, who, justified freely through the redemption there is in the blood of the crucified Redeemer, and walking in the light and sanctification of the Holy Ghost, enjoy peace with God, and are enabled to commit the keeping of their souls to Him, in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

It is true that in the mode of its operation Divine wisdom often adopts plans which