

panions, form bad habits and indulge in sin without any restraint, except from frightful dreams which disturbed him from 1722 to 1725. About the time these visions ceased he fell into a species of despair, caused chiefly through being impressed by the passage, "My Spirit shall not always strive with man." He continued in this state of mind for three years. At the age of twelve he was engaged as preceptor in a family residing at some distance from his home. The family with one exception, (the mother) appear to have been very profane and dissolute, and he soon became like them. One Sunday evening, after having been affectionately exhorted by the mistress of the house, and told of the probable circumstances and time of the day of judgment, a terrible storm came on, and believing that the great day had actually come, he was greatly alarmed, and determined upon future reformation. His resolutions were soon broken. After five months he went home, and afterwards to Stirling. He had two or three narrow escapes from drowning, and at another time was very near being killed by a drunken soldier. He read Bunyan's "Grace Abounding," which had a marked influence, but this soon wore off; he again relapsed into sin, and became a notorious liar. He afterwards went to Edinburgh, remaining there six months, and was then bound as apprentice to a house carpenter at Kippen, for three years. Here, through Mr. Potter's preaching, and pious company, his religious convictions increased; he entered into a covenant with God, but soon afterwards violated it, and consequently became ex-

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