

powerfully on the minds of many of the young people; insomuch that they were induced to go forward in the public congregation, for the purpose of obtaining the prayers of their Christian friends especially in their behalf. This, together with the earnest addresses of the ministers of Christ from the pulpit, accompanied by the divine influence, very naturally produced a powerful effect on Walter's mind, and aroused, in a great degree, those painful sensations which he had formerly experienced. But he still rigidly refrained from making his feelings known; and while conversing with him on the realities of religion and its blessed effects, he would do no more than freely admit, "that it was good, and that it was the only possession we could enjoy in this life, which was calculated to make the mind happy." It happened, however, that one evening after service, he was personally addressed by Mr. S——, who asked him—"if he was not concerned about his soul." He answered—"not particularly;" and Mr. S. earnestly exhorted him to pray for himself. The weighty and important words—"pray for yourself" seemed to press themselves home to his mind, and add poignancy to his feelings; and it was not long before he was constrained to make known the state of his mind, and to go forward with others, for the purpose of being publicly prayed for. At the close of an evening meeting, when his countenance bespoke the mental suffering he was enduring, on asking him how he did, "Oh," said he, "I am not so well as I wish I was; I know I am a sinner, and I know if I do not repent now I never may;" and he was forced to give vent to his feelings with cries and tears. After exhorting him to pray earnestly to God, and bidding him good night, he went into retirement, no doubt to plead with the Lord for mercy. He did not, however, continue long in this state, as he sought the Lord diligently by prayer, and he was blessed with frequent opportunities of attending meetings, and the advice and encouragement of pious friends. While attending a prayer-meeting on Friday, the 7th of December, which was about eight days after he had made known the troubled state of his mind, and his resolutions to lead a new life, he was enabled to express a hope that he had found peace with God, and felt that he could apply to himself the comforting words found in Isaiah xii. 1, and say,—"O Lord, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortest me." And the next evening, at another prayer-meeting, he was enabled to rejoice with great joy, in a knowledge of his acceptance with God, and earnestly exhorted those who had not embraced religion, to speedily forsake their sins; and encouraged some of his young companions, who were under deep concern, to seek earnestly, and exercise faith on the Lord Jesus Christ, and they would soon be in possession of the same blessing he was enjoying. The next evening, which was Sabbath, on asking him how he did,—"Oh!" said he, "I am happy,—you don't know how happy I am—I have no fear of death—I can reflect on it with pleasure." And while speaking of his feelings the previous evening, he said,—"I was very happy—I re-

joiced aloud, and I could not help it; although my Father (who had not publicly embraced religion at this time) was there.

During the short period which passed between this and his sudden removal out of time, (which was not quite three months,) perhaps few persons could have passed more devoted hours, or have enjoyed more of the consolation, which the religion of Christ only can impart; and it seemed verily to be,—

His sole concern, his only care,  
To watch, and tremble, and prepare,  
Against that fatal day,

when he should be called "to give an account of his stewardship;" and to use his own language, it was his whole care, "to pluck the thorns from his dying pillow."

Soon after his conversion, a class was formed, especially for the spiritual benefit of the young converts in the surrounding neighbourhood, with which he united, and with which he regularly met. When meeting with his class, he would often speak in the most confident manner of his hope of heaven, and would adopt the language of the great apostle, and say,— "I know, that, if the earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, I have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." 2 Cor. v. 1. He was also a regular attendant at the preaching, as well as the prayer meetings. At those meetings, his assistance was particularly useful. The earnest and fervent manner in which he addressed a throne of grace, showed the firmness of his confidence in God. And his earnest and humble manner of exhorting; and the affecting manner he would speak of the dealings of the Lord with his own soul, was often very comforting to the mind of the believer, and could scarcely fail to arouse reflection in the mind of the most careless hearer.

He would also eagerly embrace private opportunities, to exhort his young friends to seek religion. At one time there, he met with a young lady of his acquaintance; he immediately engaged in religious conversation; in the course of which, he asked her if it was her practice to pray: she answered in the negative, and expressed her fear that she could not; when he earnestly exhorted her to do so, observing, that,— "if she only kneeled with a sincere heart;"— he thought it would prove a blessing to her. At another time, while surrounding, with other branches of the family, the death-bed of an aged Grandmother, (who was just expiring, and having a good hope of a happy exchange;) he engaged earnestly in prayer, after which he earnestly exhorted those around, "to prepare to meet their God." While conversing with him afterwards on the circumstance, he expressed the happiness he felt at the time, and the happy opportunity he had to impress on the minds of his nearness to the blessedness of religion.

In the use of the private means of grace, he was equally assiduous to promote his own spiritual good; and of him it may truly be said,— "he was instant in prayer." After he commenced his pious career, he established for himself a rule, to read a portion of