



### THE CHANGED GAMEKEEPER.

**T**HOMAS BURCHELL, who afterwards became a useful and beloved missionary to the West Indies, soon after his conversion, when a young man, addicted himself to rising soon after daybreak; taking with him a book or two for self-improvement while enjoying the fresh breeze of the morning. Generally he bent his steps toward a wood, belonging to a nobleman who lived in the neighbourhood. Soon after commencing these rambles, he was one morning quietly advancing in a winding path, when he found himself suddenly confronted with one of the gamekeepers; who, springing from behind some trees, and supposing the wanderer to be in quest of game, presented a gun at his breast, at the same time telling him he was a dead man if he did not stand still and surrender.

He was startled a little; but, soon recovering himself, said that his only object in coming there was to enjoy privacy with his book. The keeper not being quite satisfied, first demanded his address, and then a sight of his books. He immediately took a small Bible out of his coat pocket. The keeper appeared surprised; and, after having entered into conversation

with him, told him to consider himself safe at all times on any part of the property.

He went in a different direction the next three or four mornings; but, determined afterwards to resume his favourite walk, he met the nobleman's servant at the same point, who, accosting him respectfully, begged of him, if it were not asking too much, to read a chapter out of his Bible, and explain it to him; adding, that he had waited there two hours each morning since the first meeting, greatly fearing he should never see him there again.

The request was gladly complied with. The youthful Christian, now unexpectedly led by circumstances to assume the character of an instructor, became much interested in the man, and frequently resorted to the spot, where he was sure to find him anxiously awaiting his arrival. These interviews were not in vain.

In the course of next summer, Mr. Burchell's younger sister was on a visit at Mr. Brinkworth's. One Sunday, after the services of the day were ended, she accompanied Miss Brinkworth in a walk round the sheet of water adjoining the factory. Almost before they were aware, lured on by the calm loveliness of the evening and the sylvan beauty of the scenery, they had extended their wanderings into a part of the adjoining wood; when their attention was arrested by the music of voices blending in a song of praise. Following in the direction whence the sound proceeded, they at length came to a small but neat cottage; and, on listening, recognised the words of a hymn. They retired, without interrupting the solemn exercises of family devotion; and when they mentioned the circumstance next morning to Mr. Burchell, his countenance beamed with pleasure as he rejoined, "It was the keeper's family you heard singing, and he is my first concert!"

### GOLD DUST.

- Nature always leans to legality or licentiousness.
- Error is always dangerous, it cannot be harmless.
- Never attempt duty but in God's strength.
- Beware how you trifle with duty on the ground of inability: He who bids you do, promises you strength; He invites you to receive, therefore, "have grace," that you "may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear."
- Always have something doing, or ready to do; for a Christian should never have any idle time.
- Never see any one entering into temptation, or indulging in sin, without praying for him.
- Learn a short passage of Scripture every morning, and often refer to it during the day.
- Prize the privilege of learning God's Word; and hear with meekness, prayer, and attention.
- You are under the influence of some spiritual malady, if you have not a keen appetite for gospel provisions.
- The sin you now tremble at, if left to yourself, you will commit; therefore be humble, prayerful, and watchful.
- The error you hate, unless God keep you, you will embrace.