

principle, in propensity, and in taste. Take away, O Lord, this stony heart; this hard heart; this heart that feels no awe of thy justice and thy purity; this heart that feels no love or gratitude to thee; this heart that feels no hatred of sin—no sorrow for sin; this heart that takes no delight in walking in thy statutes, and in keeping thy commandments.' Now, till you have this new spirit, this feeling heart, you would not be happy even if you were to go to heaven, because you would be without a disposition to love God; and because you could not join with the holy and happy spirits in their songs and ascriptions of praise to Jesus Christ for redeeming and saving them. They would shun all fellowship with you, as they would shun the fellowship of an evil spirit of hell, if one could get there. And you should pray with great earnestness of soul, as a man would pray to be healed of a dreadful disease, if he knew a person who could cure him."

"I see, sir, what you say is quite plain, and it strikes home upon my heart, which begins to feel a bit; but I'm afraid when you are gone I shan't mind it."

"You must pray to have it kept in your mind. But there is another view of your character and condition which I have yet to place before you. You are not only depraved,—you are guilty, under a sentence of condemnation, and are liable to be sent to hell. To save you from this tremendous condition he tells us, that *'God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.'*—John iii. 16. Here you see you are liable to perish—that is, to go to hell when you die; and your death is very near. How awful to go out of this world into hell, and live there for ever in a state of hopeless misery!"

"Oh, sir, the thought of it makes me sick at heart. But can't I be saved, as I am yet out of hell?"

"Yes, you can; and may. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, to save such as you; and he is able and willing to save you, if you believe in him—that is, if you rely on him to do it, as you would rely on the veracity of a friend who promised to do a thing for you, which you could not do yourself—which thing was essential to your safety and happiness."

"But will he save such a great sinner as I am, and now I cannot sin any longer? It does not seem very likely."

"Yes, he delights to save the chief of sinners. When on the cross he forgave and saved the thief who was crucified with him; and in the evening of that very day he admitted him into paradise, amongst the glorified spirits of heaven! Only think, in the morning he was in prison, at noon on the cross, at night in heaven! You thus see that Jesus Christ *can*, when he pleases, do a great work in a little time."

"I wish he would do such a grand work for me. Why, I would sing his praises for ever; and louder than any of the rest. But what must I do, to get him to do it for me?"

"Why, be willing to let him."

"Oh, sir, I am willing; yes, I am. And may I hope he will save me?"

"Yes, you may."

I now prayed with him, and left him; but I was with him in imagination during the whole day. His looks, his attitudes, his thundering voice when giving vent to his indignant feelings at the gross imposition which had been practised on him by the priest, with his absolution and the sacrament, made such a strong impression on me, that I could not disengage myself from him during the whole of the day. In the evening I felt restless, as I thought it possible he might die in the night, as the fatal relief from great physical suffering had continued for nearly two days. I, therefore, resolved to go; and finding no one below, I stole softly up into his room, and saw a sight which gratified me. His wife was sitting by his bedside with the Bible on her lap, which she had been reading to him, and repeating to him, as well as she could, the comments I had given on the verse to which I had especially called his attention. When he saw me, the tear moistened his eye; and holding out his hand, he said, "I thank you, sir, for your kindness in coming again. I did not expect you before the morning." But after a pause he added, with great solemnity, "In the morning I may be beyond your reach."

"I hope you have been thinking over what I said to you in the morning."

"I can't think on anything else; and I don't want to think on anything else. Ah, sir, I should have thought about these holy and good things when I was in health;