

soon suppressed all concern for personal safety, and the property thus violently wrested from him; and led him to commiserate an unhappy man, in hasty strides, to the chambers of death, and to attempt to reclaim him. He immediately addressed him with great civility, enquired what way he was going, and proposed, if agreeable, to ride in company; assuring him, at the same time, that he need not entertain the least fearful apprehension upon his account.

During the robbery itself, the man, with all his assumed courage, could not conceal the agitation of his mind. From this circumstance the doctor took occasion to suggest that his present mode of subsistence, separate from its moral turpitude, was both unwise and dangerous, as the small sums generally collected at one time in these adventures were inadequate to the risk, as they required the frequent exposure of his person, and must subject him to perpetual alarms.--- The robber urged the common plea of necessity. The doctor represented, that it was an unpleasant and commonly a fatal necessity, as it was not only a trespass upon the rights of society and the authority of God, but would subject him to a dreadful penalty in the life that now is, as well as in that which is to come. Here he intreated him to desist from these pernicious habits—urged him to repentance, assuring him that there was forgiveness, through Jesus Christ, for the most atrocious offenders, and that he did not doubt, if he implored direction from above, but Providence would so direct his way, as to enable him to “provide all things honest in the sight of all men.”

This conversation appeared to make a deep impression; the immediate effect of which was, the robber took the watch, and returned it to him, saying, “he conducted himself so much like a gentleman, that he could not think of retaining it.” The doctor replied, that he greatly valued the watch, and received it with pleasure; but acknowledged that he had a higher object in view than the restoration of his property.

As they continued their discourse, he took the money out of his pocket, and tendered that also to the doctor, saying, “that his conscience would not permit him to keep it.” But the doctor absolutely refused receiving it, begging him not to consider it as forced from him, but as the gift of benevolence to a necessitous man.

Coming nearer to Cambridge, the robber told him, “he was under a necessity of leaving him,” and, on parting, wept considerably, saying, “he hoped he should attend to his advice.” He then took a cross road, on the skirts of the town; but, having previously committed other robberies in the neighbourhood, was almost immediately identified and seized. The doctor leisurely continued his ride, and, on his arrival at Cambridge, was greatly surprised to meet him in the street, in the custody of the persons who apprehended him. On his commitment to the castle, he sent for his spiritual monitor, who found him in very great distress. During his confinement, both before and after trial, he made him repeated visits, which were rendered eminently useful; and at his execution, he had every reason to believe, he died a real convert.