

“They began to cry, what must we do they were converted, and turned unto the Lord; and, most wonderful to relate, *that one tract from the hand of a missionary was the means which God used to bring more than a hundred idolaters to give up their idols, and receive the Gospel.*

### CONVICTION OF SIN.

[FOR THE RECORD.]

MY DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS,—I have endeavoured to shew you what conviction of sin is, by directing your attention to two instances recorded in the Acts of the Apostles, and to another instance of a little boy employed in an unhallowed trade. I shall now attempt to shew you what conviction of sin is like, that you may deduce inferences for yourselves, as children are very fond of helping themselves. I ask you, then, did you ever see a mother weep—did you ever see an affectionate mother weeping over her dear child struggling in the cold arms of death, and when the soul of her dear child had left its little body and entered the world of spirits—have you seen her lay the dead body of her child in the cradle, where it was used to sleep, see her close those eyes with her gentle finger, on which she had been accustomed to look with maternal joy? But now she weeps, and, in the meantime, refuses to be comforted, because the desire of her eyes has been removed from her by the stroke of death, and, in the course of a few hours, must be conveyed to the grave—the house appointed for all. In looking into a family suffering under such or some other painful bereavement—what is the inference you would draw from the solemn silence which there reigns, broken only at intervals by sighs and short prayers for grace to bear up under the trial? Would you say that such a family was in a happy mood—that they were very joyful; or, would you infer, from the sad looks and the tears fast falling from the eyes in rapid succession, that they were suffering great grief and sorrow? that the mother was very much grieved at the loss of her child? So the grief which a loving mother feels, and the tears she sheds over the lifeless body of her child, is something like the sorrow which a man feels, and

the tears he sheds over his sins, when he has been convinced by the Spirit of all grace, that he is a rebel against God, by breaking his holy law. I shall only call your attention to another instance at present. Perhaps you have heard of a man apprehended by the officers of justice, and shut up in prison, charged with the bloody crime of murdering his neighbour. There he lay in the gloomy prison, till the day came when the court met, before which he was to be tried. Having been placed at the bar of the court and witnesses examined, it was clearly proved that he was guilty of the murder charged against him, and a unanimous verdict of guilty, was given by a jury of his countrymen—and he was sentenced by the presiding judge to die on a day fixed, by being hung by the neck till he was dead. What must be the feelings of a man condemned to die a murderer, when his conscience tells him he is guilty—that the sentence pronounced against him is just. When he thinks on the eternal world he is about to enter, and to appear in the presence of the holy God who is his final judge; whose sentence will fix him in his state through the ages of ages; the ignominy of a public execution, being hung by the neck like a dog, in the view of many thousand spectators—the disgrace he has brought on himself, and the shame and grief he has inflicted on his relatives and friends. When he thinks on these and other solemn realities, no wonder that his heart sinks within him in hopeless despair. Unutterable anguish prostrates his whole soul; he sees himself not only about to be cut off from the land of living men, but that he deserves to suffer the wrath of God forever in hell. I leave you, my young friends, to deduce what lessons you can, from this picture of woe.

In conclusion, I say to you, that the grief, remorse and despair of the condemned murderer, is something like the grief, the sorrow, and the despair, which the convinced sinner feels, after he has been led to see the nature and extent of the fiery law declared at Sinai, and especially when he beholds the Lamb of God, dying instead of the guilty, on Calvary's cross. Having been favoured with these views of the law, and of Christ's satisfaction in the room of the guilty, the sinner is