

observe, that if a Jew has renounced his religion, and embraced Christianity or any other religion, if he recant, he may again be admitted to the privileges of his nation, by performing some penitential act or acts, imposed on him by the chief Rabbi, who is commonly, but erroneously, termed the High Priest. To that personage my dear sister urged me to have recourse, that, being by him absolved from the reproach I had brought upon myself, I might be received with open arms by my friends, and be more endeared to them than ever. 'Consider,' she continued, 'that either your wife and children will share your disgrace, or, being restored to us, they will share in the joy your return will occasion to us all.' She proceeded for a length of time in the same strain, but how shall I describe the inward conflict in which I was now engaged, or the struggle I had with my natural feelings?

"My sister began to have hopes (judging by my silence) that she had gained her point, that her appeal to my affections had not been in vain: she was, however, greatly mistaken—I was silently praying to my God to give me the spirit of wisdom and of truth, as well as a door of utterance, that I might speak boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus. The Lord was with me, and his grace enabled me to rouse myself from my apparent lethargy, and fearlessly and unshrinkingly to witness a good confession. I assured my dear sister that, however great my love might be to her, and to my parents, or to my wife and children, or any creature, the love I bore to my blessed Saviour was infinitely above all other considerations, and that all other love was as nothing, when we are assured of His love to us, His sovereign love, which is unmingled with human passions—in short, I told her that no earthly power or inducement could draw me away from God, my Saviour. Finding that her tears and entreaties had all been spent in vain, she arose to depart. 'Henceforth (said my sister) I shall abhor Christians, their very name will be odious to me.' With an aching heart, and swollen eyes, she returned home to bear the sad tidings of the failure of her mission to the other members of the family, who were waiting her return in deep anxiety.

"My two sisters next paid a visit to the

Rev. Mr. —. They accused him of being the chief instrument in leading me to Christianity. He assured them that he was not instrumental in any way in bringing me to the knowledge of Christ. He said, 'When I first saw your brother, I found him a Christian already.' He then took the opportunity of briefly laying before them the truths of the gospel, and although they were not able to controvert the proofs he gave them, yet, being so tenacious of their own preconceived notions, they expressed strong disapprobation of the step I had taken. Mr. — offered to go to my parents, and endeavor to soothe their agitated minds, and reconcile them to the will of Providence; but his kind and well meant offers were peremptorily refused. Mr. — related to me the substance of his interview with my sisters, and told me how much pleased he was with their intelligent conversation, with the energetic manner with which they entreated him to restore me to them, and with their respectful behaviour to him, although they were laboring under excited feelings.

"Their next recourse was to try what my wife's family could do. Accordingly we received a visit from her brothers. My wife's family were always noted for the great unanimity existing amongst them.— Her eldest brother began by asking her if she could reconcile her mind to live with an apostate. She assured them, that from all she observed, she was satisfied that I was seeking to walk in the paths of truth, and holiness, and added, 'I cannot dissuade him.' I then thought it right to address a few words to him, in support of the choice I had made. He would not allow me to proceed, but continued addressing my wife. 'My purpose in coming to you is this, if you will take your children away, and leave your husband, I will settle a sufficient annuity upon you to support you comfortably.' Now as I have before stated, they always attacked me where they thought I was the weakest; and knowing my attachment to my wife and children, they flattered themselves that I would rather yield to anything, than to a separation from them. Here again they were foiled. My wife replied, 'I am ready to share with my husband in all circumstances, whether of reproach, contempt, adversity, sorrow or sickness, or in any