

and a great pleasure in committing to memory hymns, passages of scripture, &c. Thus it was with me till 1810, when it pleased my Heavenly Father to visit me with a severe illness. I was obliged to leave school, and for some months could not leave my room. Then did I especially feel my need of an interest in Jesus, and I longed to *lay hold* of that hope which I felt I had been only *looking at*. My dear parents often spoke to me, but I was unable to tell any one what was passing within. Gaining some strength, change of air was advised, and Kettering was the place fixed upon. There my dear mother placed me under the care of an old and valued friend of hers, who not only supplied her place with respect to those attentions my situation required, but often spoke to me of the things belonging to my everlasting interests. There also I had frequent visits from christian friends, and, when able, regularly attended Mr. Fuller's ministry. About this time I was much impressed under a discourse I heard him deliver. It was an exposition on John xv. 1-5. On my return from the house of God I freely opened my mind to the friend with whom I was placed. She encouraged me to hope that I was really united to the 'living Vine;' but I felt there was something wanting, and I longed for more evidence of a renewed nature. A few days after it pleased the wise Disposer of human events again to destroy my expectations of complete restoration to health. I caught cold one evening: an inflammation of the lungs followed, and I was considered in danger. My own impressions were that I should never be raised up again. My distress at first was extreme; distance from my beloved friends—every circumstance added to the anguish of my mind. But God was pleased to 'speak peace unto me,' and enabled me to resign myself into his hands. I felt him near to me, and could look at death without much dismay. The 276th and 277th hymns of the Selection I found contained the language of my heart,\* and I almost longed to be where I should grieve my

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\* The reference is to Rippon's Selection. at that time generally used by Baptist congregations in England. The first hymn is Beddome's hymn, beginning. "My times of sorrow and of joy." Three verses of it constitute No. 596 in the *Psalmist*. The last two verses are strangely omitted. They are—