

and see my husband ! for I fear he is dying." Though the night was dark, the weather wet, and the hours of a Sabbath that was to be devoted to arduous duties had commenced, yet the Minister dared not to refuse. There was the opportunity of endeavouring to be useful ; there was an immortal soul in peril, a soul for which the Saviour of men had spent hours of an eventful night in agonizing prayer ; and it was the duty of the Minister of that Saviour to be " instant in season and out of season," to serve his Master's pleasure. Having therefore inquired where the dying man was to be found, he commenced dressing. While thus employed, he reflected that the voice of the female was known unto him ; that she had once been a member of his charge, and that he had visited her to rebuke her for her lukewarmness, and warn her of the consequences of withdrawing from the advantages of church-membership, as being likely to be followed by a departure from God. He also recollected that on that occasion he had heard something of the character of her husband ; that though he was the son of a pious mother, who was living to pray for him, he was careless about, if not an opposer of, the things of God ; and was seldom, if ever, to be found in the sanctuary of the Lord. These thoughts tended to hasten his steps to the dwelling of sickness. Leaving his house with feelings deeply affected with the object of his mission, he had to pass through streets which a few hours before had been crowded with a teeming population, but now unbroken silence prevailed ; not a sound was to be heard ; it seemed like the stillness of death, which increased the solemnity of his thoughtful mind. On approaching the abode of sorrow, he required no other guidance to the door than the voice of distress, which he could distinctly hear while in the street, calling on God for mercy. He entered the house, and found his way into an upper room, where he saw, standing by the bedside of the dying man, a solitary female, who, like himself, had been suddenly roused from sleep to render neighbourly kindness. The weeping wife was in pursuit of medical assistance. On the bed was laid the wasted form of a once-robust frame, evidently in the convulsive throes of death, but yet sensible ; for when the Minister requested him to add to his loud and unceasing prayer, " for Christ's sake," he immediately prayed, " For Christ's sake, Lord, forgive me, and give me a few minutes." He acknowledged, as far as he was capable, that he had been very negligent about his best interests, and intimated his sorrow for his sin ; and continued, with fervour, his prayer for pardon and for the grant of *a few minutes*. The Minister pointed him to the willing Saviour, repeated some of the promises given to sincere penitents, and pleaded with the Lord in prayer to have mercy at the last hour on one now sensible of his awful danger, and desirous of divine forgiveness. The word of instruction and of promise was again repeated, and prayer a second time offered, in which the dying man engaged. Then his own petition was renewed, " Lord, for Christ's sake, forgive me, and give me a few minutes ;" and while these words