

of God was that they should be worn. The speaker said he should not like to see his children in rags if he had provided for them good clothes; but God was obliged to put up with such a state of things. Some ill-dressed Christians got a patch or two at holiness conventions, but he wished them all to have a suit each. He had heard preachers discourse on the beautiful garments most lucidly, and yet they were but poorly dressed themselves, and he could say the same of some class-leaders. It was possible to have a good deal of religion and only a little piety. It was thus with the priest and the Levite in the parable, who might have been going to a holiness convention for aught he knew; but that gentleman whom he should ask to see before he had been long in heaven—the good Samaritan—had got the beautiful garments on, and that was the sort of holiness he believed in. If they meant to help others they must let others ride on their own beast while they walked. They would find these garments convenient for walking purposes, for walking in, for example, on the Lord's Day, instead of setting engine-drivers, stokers, and guards to work for them. The commandments would have to be kept, including the fourth. But if they did not pull off the old garments before putting on the new, the dirt would show through. Did they understand what he meant? It was no use putting a surplice on a sweep. If they asked him whether it was possible for a man to be perfect, he answered, "Yes, perfect enough for God to call him perfect." He had some pansies in his garden which would not take a prize at a show, but they were as good as they could be, considering what they were. Yet they would be better if the Lord would let it rain. So it was with Christians; if they would strip off the old garments God would put on the new ones. But the stripping off was costly work. It was not to be done at death—he was not thinking of a shroud; it was to be done now. These garments would help them to get up in the morning to their work without being called twice or thrice, and they would prevent masters from reducing wages on the first opportunity. Suitable for all ages. They might wear them, too, and never be charged with dressing too young. Nor would they be liable to the charge of dressing too expensively for their station in life. They would be clothed with humility. As for confessing holiness, he did not take exactly the same view as some of the brethren. He did not think they would lose it just because they did not confess it. That doctrine was not in the Book, and before he believed it they would have to prove it from the Book. No, that holiness was dyed in the wool. He wished to encourage the young to put these garments on, for the garments would grow with them, as did the lamb's fleece,