

o'clock in the morning; he generally worked for sixteen hours a day and took no regular meals, and he wearied himself by going to preach at places several miles from Madeley. He was offered another living by the King, whose notice he had attracted by his tract in support of Wesley's view of the right England had to tax the American colonies, but he declined it, saying, "I want nothing but more grace."

However, in 1776, he was obliged to leave Madeley for a considerable time, for his health had completely broken down, and he was thought to be in a consumption. He never expected to recover, but he consented to try the Bristol waters, and to give himself complete rest. At Bristol he was visited by a man who, although far gone in decline, refused to believe that he was dying; after some conversation with him, Fletcher laid his hand on his own chest, and said, "God has fixed a loud knocker at my breast and yours. Because we did not regard as we ought the gentle calls of his Holy Spirit, his Word, and his Providences. He has taken fast hold here, and we cannot get out of His hands, Oh, let the knocker waken you!" Fletcher wrote also in a similar strain to Miss Ireland (whose father had taken her abroad in the vain hope of checking the disease of the lungs from which she suffered):—"To see the bridge of life cut off behind us, and have done with all thoughts of repairing it to go back into the world, has a natural tendency to make us venture to the foot of the Cross. Reflect that though your earthly father loves you much—witness the hundreds of miles he has gone for the bare prospect of your health—yet your Heavenly Father loves you a thousand times better, and He is all wisdom as well as all goodness. Allow then such a gracious, loving Father to choose for you, and if He chooses death, acquiesce, and say, as you can, Good is the will of the Lord; His choice *must* be best."

The Bristol waters had no effect on Fletcher's health and he left England, going first to Aix-les-Bains, and then to his old home at Nyon, where he remained for more than three years. The complete rest and pure air did more towards his recovery than could have been expected. At the end of the three years he was able to preach, and on the few occasions that he did so the church at Nyon was far too small for the congregations which