

day; regretting, however, that a whole day might thus be lost; and not without fears that another opportunity might never occur.

Arriving the next day according to my engagement, I found that Mrs. Brereton was still worse, and that the minister of her sect had not been with her. This seemed to me quite unaccountable; as I had always supposed that the dissenters were particularly diligent in their attentions to the sick; and indeed that one cause of their popularity, above the established Clergy, had been the apparent superior zeal, which they displayed, in communicating with their flocks. However, this Gentleman not having come forward in a time of need, it became now decidedly my duty, as being the lawful Parish Priest, to press more authoritatively the suggestions of yesterday, and to offer myself for their immediate execution.

Mr. Brereton still hesitated. His wife, he said, had fainted again to-day through exhaustion; and was now lying apparently more dead than alive. He had attempted to read to her, but she seemed not to listen; and if he put a question to her, she sometimes returned an incoherent answer. From all which he argued, that nothing could now be done.

I enquired if he had found a convenient opportunity of mentioning my call to her. He replied that he had, and that she desired I would accept her thanks for it; and moreover, that she expressed a wish to receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, upon which she had heard me preach once or twice. With respect to baptism, having gently insinuated my remarks upon it, she made no observation at the time, and has been since incapable, in consequence of a paroxysm of her disorder.

There was undoubtedly some difficulty in my way beyond what appeared; and I began to fear that I should not be able to discover and remove it, so as to be of use to this poor lady, who had deeply engaged my interest. Miss Brereton being present to-day, and entering into the conversation, I renewed all the arguments of yesterday, and having stated, with all the force in my power, the presumptuousness, as it appeared to me, of looking for the Christian salvation without a compliance with the Christian ordinances, and more especially the initiatory one,—I added, that in case of death without baptism, I did not see, how I could legally perform the last sad and solemn rite of burial. My practice had been not to enquire into these matters, but to suppose that every thing had been correctly done. Here, however, the fact of non-baptism was accidentally made known to me, and I seemed to be deprived of all discretionary power.

In answer to this, Mr. Brereton informed me, that it had been already settled by his wife's family, that she should be interred with her ancestors and kindred, in their burying-place, at the Baptist Chapel, in the neighbouring town. I was glad of this, so far