

"September 12th. A day to be much remembered. On this day twenty-five years since, I first read Mr. Willerforce's book on Christianity, in my little study in the vicarage-house at Brading; and thence and then received my first serious, and I hope saving, impressions."

The change in Mr. R.'s views and feelings, as it produced an entire revolution in his modes of preaching and discharging his pastoral duties, so it was followed by great success in his pulpit labours. Multitudes flocked to hear the word, and not a few were heard exclaiming, "Sirs, what must we do to be saved?" Never, perhaps, was any man's conversion to God succeeded by more delightful or convincing evidence of its reality, than was Mr. R.'s. In a diary, which he wrote at this time, the reader may trace the restless energy and devotedness of a mind constrained by the love of Christ. In that diary, as well as in his private letters, there will be found a lively combination of all that can improve the taste, enrich the imagination, and elevate the heart to God. In the lovely and romantic scenery of the Isle of Wight, Mr. R. found much that was congenial to his poetic and highly cultivated mind; and, after his conversion, all his powers of imagination and of description were consecrated to the great interests of the Cross.

From the endeared scene of his early ministry at Brading, Mr. R. was induced to remove to the chapel of the Lock Hospital, London, in the year 1805. Mr. R.'s first sermon (from 1 Cor. i. 30), gave great satisfaction to the Governors and others, and the general acceptance which he realized, in the large and affluent congregation, seemed to open a great prospect of usefulness in his subsequent ministry. It pleased the great Disposer of events, however, to cut short this fair prospect, upon which the mind of Mr. R. seemed to dwell with uncommon satisfaction. A few

weeks after his appointment at the Lock, the rectory of Turvey, in Bedfordshire, became vacant, by the death of the late Erasmus Middleton, author of the "Biographia Evangelica."—Mrs. Fuller, an eminently pious lady, was at that period in possession of the patronage of this benefice, and being anxious to act a conscientious part in the appointment of a clergyman, she wrote to the late excellent Ambrose Serle, Esq. of the Transport Office, author of "Horæ Solitariae," and many other useful works, stating that as she was much indebted to him for the benefit she had received from his writings, she would present the rectory of Turvey to any clergyman of his sentiments whom he might think fit to recommend. Mr. Serle instantly recommended Mr. R. who, after much deliberation, and with many scruples as to the path of duty, accepted the appointment, and was publicly inducted to the charge on the 30th of July, 1805.

Before the time of Mr. R.'s incumbency, the village of Turvey was greatly neglected, and a population of 800 souls was left in ignorance and crime. Mr. Middleton's faithful labours were only just beginning to be felt, when death arrested his course. Mr. R.'s first text was taken from 1 Cor. ii. 2; from which words he uniformly preached on the anniversary of his induction till the day of his death. His labours were great and unremitting;—three public services on the Sabbath, a cottage lecture (as he called it) on the Tuesday evening; a lecture in the Church on Friday evening; a meeting with the regular communicants, once a month, on the Saturday; and a weekly meeting at the work-house. Besides which, he went "from house to house doing good." It is somewhat remarkable, and certainly ought to encourage ministers to abound in such efforts, that both at Brading and at Turvey, Mr. R.'s first success, in the