

sinner without hope of mercy, lives but to blaspheme, and suffering both in soul and body, receives a never ending recompense for all his iniquity.

Inasmuch then as the leprosy of the soul, exceeds in the magnitude of its evils, that of the body; in such proportion should our endeavours be exerted to be delivered from its power. But unfortunately we do not all of us realize to ourselves, that we are infected with this spiritual malady, when we certainly are so. We can perceive the mote that is in our neighbour's eye, but we do not perceive the beam that is in our own. If it were otherwise, and did we possess any thing like an adequate sense, of the awful situation in which we are placed—we surely would not be so careless about our recovery. On the contrary we would think that no greater calamity could befall us—all trials and misfortunes of a worldly nature, would seem as nothing in comparison to this—and our whole care and anxiety would be, to be delivered from so dreadful a tyranny. Let us then inquire who they are, who are infected with the leprosy of sin; and, secondly, by what means this leprosy may be removed. I suppose that it is hardly necessary to state in this congregation, that those persons who are living in the practice of notorious and flagitious crimes, must be comprehended under the above description. Every person must be aware that the habitual drunkard, the adulterer, or the thief, is in this metaphorical sense of the term, a leper. But perhaps all may not know, that a man may sustain a firm reputation in this world for integrity of character, for the uprightness of his morals, the suavity of his disposition, and his natural benevolence, and yet incur the same epithet. And what is peculiarly unfortunate in this case, it is a work of much more difficulty, to convince such a person of the reality of his situation. He entertains a just contempt for those fouler crimes, which are the disgrace of human nature; he abhors them, and studiously avoids the company of those who perpetrate them. He considers himself, as it were, in a superior scale of being.