

of the well, and I felt an ardent desire to own the book and read the dream again, I left the rooms, having first requested Mr. Wood, who was a particular friend, to put it up as soon as he saw me in the evening, as it was the only work I wanted. He promised to do so, and I immediately went out towards our office which was nearly opposite; but I had scarcely reached the middle of the street when a voice 'like the sound of many waters,' said to me—'This is your last warning! I trembled like an aspen life—I felt myself to be in the grasp of the Almighty, and an earthquake could not have increased my dismay. I went to the office, took down the day-book to charge the new advertisements, but my hand trembled so that I could not write; and I put the book back in its place. I went home to dinner, endeavoring to conceal my feelings as much as possible from my wife. The day wore heavily away; I was at the auction room at the hour; purchased the book that seemed to be strangely connected with my weal or woe: returned to my house immediately and read Newton's eventful life through before retiring to rest. I commenced reading the Scriptures with deep interest to find out how a sinner could be saved; and in two months, read the Psalms and different portions of the Old Testament, and the New Testament, I think, more than twenty times through. It required great effort to attend to domestic duties and my business in the office; for I felt continually that it would profit me nothing 'to gain the whole world and at last lose my own soul.' I sought out preachers, and heard Mr. Duncan frequently; but could not learn from any of them the way of salvation. One evening, after the family had all retired, I went up into a vacant garret, and walked backwards and forwards in great agony of mind; I kneeled down; the instance of Hezekiah occurred to me; like him I turned to the wall and cried for mercy. An answer seemed to be vouchsafed in an impression, that just as many years as I had passed in rebellion against God, so many years I must now endure, before deliverance could be granted. I clasped my hands, and cried out, 'Yes, dear Lord, 1000 years of such anguish as I now feel, if I may only be saved at last.' I continued to read, and whenever I could steal away unobserved into the garret, there I walked the floor, when all around was hushed in sleep; there I prayed and poured out tears of bitter sorrow. While thus engaged one night, the plan of salvation was revealed to me in the figure of Noah's Ark. I saw an ungodly race swept away with the flood, but Noah and his family were saved, for God shut them in the Ark. I felt that as a sinner I was condemned and justly exposed to immediate and everlasting destruction. I saw distinctly that in Christ alone I must be saved, if saved at all; and the view I at that moment had of God's method of saving sinners, I do still most heartily entertain, after thirty years' experience of his love. This was Saturday night, and that night I slept more sweetly than I had done for many weeks.—I wished immediately to be baptized. There was no question as to the right way. I had read the New Testament so thoroughly that the doctrines of the gospel were perfectly plain, though I had not conferred with flesh and blood, or asked any one what church I ought to join."

Next day he applied to a Baptist pastor at Baltimore, for baptism, and in a few days, 4th. February, 1814, was immersed in the Patapso, the ice which was a foot thick having been out for the purpose. In November, 1815, he was ordained Pastor of the Baptist Church at Washington, and was soon elected Chaplain to Congress. In 1826, he removed to Alexandria, and in 1833, to New York, where he was minister first of one, and then another Baptist Church. He was one of the most popular pulpit orators in the States, his person being handsome and commanding, his manner graceful and winning, and his voice remarkably flexible, sonorous, and powerful. He held a great number of the most distinguished offices in religious associations, both of his own denomination, and of a general character. He was President of the Bible Union, one leading object of which is to procure a new English version of the Scriptures. In his public addresses on behalf of that Society, he was wont to say, that "the sword of the Spirit must be drawn out of the scabbard of King James." He died, in about a fortnight after experiencing a paralytic shock, very generally and deeply regretted.