

"Teach me thy way and I will walk in thy truth." "Let not thy Spirit depart from me." "Leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation."

I conceive that some such picture as I have drawn, must have been present to the Apostle's mind when he penned this exhortation. He saw men who had been redeemed by the precious blood of Christ, fighting their way through the world, hemmed in by unrelenting foes, and in danger from the remnants of sin yet in their members, and knowing their weakness and insufficiency without help from above he exhorts them to take heed, and watch unto prayer, to use their present privileges and especially to beware of such easily besetting sins as would bring them back under the former yoke of bondage, and in this light his exhortation is of great weight, Christ hath redeemed you, (he seems to say) with His precious blood, He hath inducted you into His glorious kingdom, "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made you free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."

Some, doubtless, there are in this assembly who have actually borne the heavy yoke, whose backs have felt the lash, whose souls have been crushed with misery and iron, upon whom the cruel skill of the inhuman slaveowner and his still more brutal overseer have been exercised, but who have left their bondage and escaped hither, and of them I would enquire "would ye go back, would ye even *risk* your present advantages, by placing yourselves for an instant, even though your birth-place* should be dear to you, within reach of their unchristian laws. Surely not." And your emphatic *No* is but a faint echo of the answer which Christ's freedman ought to give when tempted to fall back to perdition, by anything that wealth or honour or pleasure can display.

I must now conclude with a little pertinent advice, as scripture inclines me. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all things needful shall be added unto you. Fear Him who can cast soul and body into hell." Thus shall you be the Lord's freedmen. Inform yourselves with the truth of Gods Word. Your Saviour said, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. Avoid all sin, especially the sin that most easily besets you. He that committeth sin is the *slave* of sin. "Give all diligence to make your calling and election sure." Use your christian privileges aright and "with well-doing put to silence the ignorance of foolish men." My friends, if ye all were earnest, single-hearted, practical christians, what a noble front would ye present to the world, how would ignorance and prejudice which now assail you hand in hand, *then* have to hide with shame their diminished heads. In this view, your destiny is in your own power, if you wish to rise in social position, 1st. Be christians, 2d. Educate yourselves and your children, succour and exhort the weaker brethren. "Let your light so shine before men that they may see *your* good works and glorify *your* father which is in heaven." "For if the *Son* shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

The benediction was then pronounced.

* Alluding to the case of the Rev. Thomas Kinsaird who was seized and sold when on a visit to his birth-place in the state of Delaware.