

Adam Clarke.

When Dr. Adam Clarke was about six years old, an occurrence took place which deserves to be recorded. At that time his father lived at Maghera, where he kept a public school, both English and classical. Near where Mr. Clarke lived was a very decent orderly family, of the name of Brooks, who lived on a small farm. They had eleven children, some of whom went regularly to Mr. Clarke's school: one, called James, was the tenth child, a lovely lad, between whom and little Adam there subsisted a most intimate friendship and strong attachment. One day, when walking hand in hand in a field near the house, they sat down on a bank and began to enter into very serious conversation; they both became much affected, and this was deepened into exquisite distress, by the following observations made by little Brooks. "O, Addy, Addy;" said he, "what a dreadful thing is *eternity*; and, oh how dreadful to be put into hell-fire, and to be burnt there for ever and ever!" They both wept bitterly, and, as well as they could, begged God to forgive their sins; and they made to each other strong promises of amendment. They wept till they were really ill, and departed from each other with full and pensive hearts!

In reviewing this circumstance, Dr. Clarke has been heard to say: "I was then truly and deeply convinced that I was a sinner; that I was liable to eternal punishment; and that nothing but the mercy of God could save me from it: though I was not so conscious of any other sin as that of disobedience to my parents, which at that time affected me most forcibly. When I left my little companion, I went home, told the whole to my mother, with a full heart, expressing the hope that I should never more say any bad words, or refuse to do what she or my father might command. She was both surprised and affected, and gave me much encouragement, and prayed heartily for me. With a glad heart she communicated the information to my father, on whom I could see it did not make the same impression; for he had little opinion of pious resolutions in childish minds, though he feared God, and was a serious conscientious churchman. I must own, that the way in which he treated it was very discouraging to my mind, and served to mingle impressions with my serious feelings, that were not friendly to their permanence; yet the impression, though it grew faint, did not wear away. It was laid deep in the consideration of eternity; and my accountableness to God for my conduct; and the absolute necessity of enjoying his favour, that I might never taste the bitter pains of eternal death."