

Mrs. ——— had been there early in the evening, to request me to come again to see her mother. She said her mother was more desirous than ever to see me, and begged that I would come down after I came home. Upon hearing this I turned about and walked directly down. It was the silent hour of midnight. No sound was heard but the hoarse blast of the north, and no object was visible but the dim watch-light, one in the little cottage window which I was approaching, and one in the window of my own house which I had just left. These only served to make the surrounding darkness more dense. Picking my way along, however, I came to the door which was almost instantly opened, and Mrs. ——— said in a whisper, "I am so glad you are come, Sir, mother is so very anxious to see you." I was just asking, how is your mother? when I was interrupted by a tremulous voice within; "Katherine, has Mr. ——— come?" "Yes, mother," she replied, "Mr. ——— is here." "O my dear Sir," said she, with deep agitation, pushing away the curtains, "I am so glad to see you." "And how do you find yourself, my dear madam?" I asked. "O Sir, she replied, with regard to my body, I do not know; I have not given it a thought to-day. But my soul!——" and she pressed my hand almost convulsively; her emotions not suffering her to speak for some time. After her feelings had a little subsided she was able to proceed with considerable calmness.

I cannot, at this distance of time, pretend to recollect her exact words; nor will I attempt to describe the scene which followed at this interview. Suffice it to say, that the Holy Spirit had made her sensible of her true state. She clearly saw herself guilty, condemned, and helpless. And her distress and fear were equal to her confidence and presumption before. She told me, that when she sent for me the day before, she had not the least doubt but she was a very good Christian, *and she never in her life had felt any misgiving on that point.* She had never supposed that religion consisted in any thing more than being a member of the church of Christ, and she thought that all protestants were constituted such at

their baptism. Having these views, she thought my discourse of the last evening uncalled for and cruel. She felt deeply offended with it, even to anger, which was her state of mind when I proposed prayer. But during the prayer she became softened, and a new feeling, which she could not describe, came over her. When I was gone, and the family had retired to bed, she was left to silence and reflection. She thought of what I had said of the holy requirements of God's law, and she saw how short she had come of them. She thought of the holiness of his nature; and could realize how much he must be offended at sin. She seemed, sometimes, almost to see his all-seeing eye bent in anger upon her. In this manner she spent the night. As soon as the morning appeared she had her daughter reading the Scriptures to her, in hopes to be comforted by them. But in them she saw her condemnation more clearly. They shined only upon her guilt. And what she feared before, she found confirmed by the very voice of inspiration. In this state of mind she had sent for me, and she had felt greatly disappointed and distressed when she heard I was not at home. She feared I would not come till morning, and that before that time her doom would be fixed. You may be sure that I felt a great pleasure in directing her to Christ. I endeavoured to show her the perfect nature of Christ's finished work as a foundation for her hope, and as a consequence of it, the freeness with which the Father receives and justifies the believer. She appeared for a while to be mentally struggling to comprehend the new, the great idea, and then she said, "do you mean Sir, that I may believe in Christ and be saved? That I, sinful and guilty as I am, would be freely accepted of him? And is this all that is necessary after a long life of sin?" I assured her that this was what was required, namely, faith in the Son of God. That this only would produce genuine repentance and procure purity of heart. I read several passages of Scripture suitable for her case, showing that the blood of Christ cleanseth from all sin, and that he is the propitiation, &c. She was filled with wonder and amazement. She forgot her own situation in the contem-