

a neighboring spring affords me—nor since my residence here has my life been but once in jeopardy, which was in the instance of a sudden attack from a bear, which was occasioned by my having unwisely robbed her of one of her young cubs, that I was attempting to convey home alive, and to recover which I was pursued and overtaken by the dam, and after being most severely handled, to save my life, I was obliged at length to yield to her what she indeed had the best claim to. Among my other properties, I possess that which I esteem the most valuable, and which is no other than that which I exhibited to you a few moments ago, as my best defence against man's greatest enemy, the *creature man* as well as the *evil devices* of one who is very justly considered the chief *instigator of the wickedness of man!*—it is this precious volume, my friend, that has afforded me unspeakable comfort and consolation in my most solitary and gloomy moments—it teaches me that this world of trouble and affliction is not always to be my home or abiding place, but that there is another and far better state of existence, for those who accept of the terms of offered mercy—it teaches me to contemplate and admire the ~~glories~~ of the Almighty, and that Christianity supplies every deficiency of human nature; satisfies every real want, and gratifies every reasonable desire—by sad experience I know that we live in a world of sorrow, subjected to many afflictions, and have need of consolation under them, and it is the precious contents of this holy book that can alone afford it—and I believe that I can say in truth, that it is the first book, the best book, and the oldest book in the world—it brings the best tidings, and affords the best comfort, to the inquiring and disconsolate!”

The good, and apparently, *happy* old man here concluded his narrative, which had closely engaged the attention of the writer for nearly an hour, and which he viewed of so much interest, as to induce him to beg of the old gentleman to repeat, in such manner as would enable him to take notes thereof, which he was enabled to do, being fortunately provided with pen, ink and paper—and the interesting narrative as then twice related to him, is, he can assure the public, the same in substance, as is here presented to them—and for the information of his readers, the writer would here add, that the aged father who is the principal subject of it