

impressed,—especially by the sermons of Br. Loskiel. But these impressions were soon effaced by my frivolity, and love for what was evil. When I was twelve years old, my parents had the grief to see me a lover of this evil world, and likely to perish with it. I think of this part of my life with horror. Had not my gracious Saviour providentially conducted me to a flock of His, where I was tended with faithful care, I should have become one of the most wretched of fallen men.

It was in my thirteenth year, that I found myself unable any longer to resist the powerful warnings of the Holy Ghost. I began bitterly to bewail my bad life, and spent several days in great distress. At length, I retired to an out-house, where I knelt down and prayed as well as I could. Here our gracious Saviour revealed Himself to me, in all His suffering beauty; it was as if I saw Him with my bodily eyes, and heard Him say to me, 'Thou art mine! Thy sins are forgiven thee!' O what a happy moment was this! Never shall I forget it. My heart became light, and I felt that I had obtained complete absolution. My parents were filled with astonishment; and when I told them what had taken place, they thanked the Lord with me. This was the first time that the faithful Friend of my soul revealed Himself so clearly to me. For some time, I went on in a happy frame of mind, and experienced abundant peace; but I did not enjoy the faithful care, with which children are favoured in the congregations of the Brethren. The deceitfulness of sin, and my tendency to light-mindedness again obtained the advantage over me, and I gradually returned to my former mode of life.

In 1784, I was confirmed in the church at Gödau. My first enjoyment of the Holy Communion was accompanied by a delightful feeling of the peace of God. But the evil within soon effaced these impressions, and I thought but little of what my Saviour had done for me. My indifference to my mother's admonitions distressed her greatly, and at length she complained of me to my eldest brother, who lived at Kleinwelke. He took an opportunity to represent to me how sinful my conduct towards my mother was—reminding me, that she had the welfare of my soul at heart. This rendered me uneasy, and I resolved that I would go to live in some congregation of the Brethren, thinking that all would then be well with me. I therefore asked permission of my father to do so. He did not oppose my wish, but said, 'Consider well what you are about to do, for you will carry the same bad heart with you to Herrnhut. If you do not sincerely turn to our Saviour, and entreat Him to change your heart, to deliver you from iniquity, and to make you a new creature, you will soon be sent away from the congregation,—and this last evil will be worse than the first, for such wanderers are most miserable.' However, I adhered to my resolution, and on the 2nd of February, 1786, I left my parents, with the earnest wish on their part, that I might prosper for the Lord, and not bring shame on His name.

On the 4th of February, I arrived at Herrnhut, accompanied by my brother. When I saw the settlement at a distance, and remembered, that the first congregation of the renewed Brethren's Church had been collected there, I experienced an impression that I shall never forget.