

ted some of the passages of scripture which speak of the doom of liars. Her brother endeavoured to appease her, by telling her of pardon by the blood of Christ, and assuring her, that if she asked, she would obtain forgiveness.—Next morning the incident was related to mamma; and as the child's distress continued, she spoke to her on the subject. She confirmed what her brother had stated, but added, that the pardon was not all that was required. She must ask and receive a new heart and right spirit, which Christ was as willing to give as the pardon of sin. 'But, mamma, I do not know how to pray for it,—will you teach me?' She fell on her knees, and having gone through her usual prayer, raised her eyes earnestly to her mother, saying, 'Tell me now mamma.'—This was accordingly done in a few plain words; and both during the continuance of this impression, which lasted long, and since, they have been in constant use. The other children were solemnly affected, and none more than dear Alick. Never thereafter did he lay his head on his pillow, or arise from sleep, without lisping, 'O Lord, create a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within me; take away this hard and stony heart, and give me a heart to love and serve thee, for Christ's sake.'

"The stupor, symptomatic of his direful complaint, did not make its decided appearance until the last week of his life; but for eight days before he expired, he had not above one, or at most two, short intervals of consciousness. Previous to these days, he often asked his mother to read 'pretty story from the Bible,' and would listen with a pleased and happy temper to all that was said to him on spiritual matters. Again and again did he request to hear about the 'little boy who had sore head,' as he expressed it,—the Shunamite's son, the mercy shown to whom seemed to fill his mind and to delight his heart. He dwelt on the thought that 'God had made him well;' and in his own affliction, we believe he looked to the same source,—his hope and expectation,—as a child might do.

"It is difficult to say how small a portion of the living seed seen in a child's soul the Eternal Spirit may render effectual, and to what degree he may sanctify such afflictions as our dear boy experienced. To us it was, indeed, consolatory to see his eye turned towards 'the light shining in a dark place;' to the Word of God; to all the truths extracted therefrom,

which, in various shapes he had committed to memory, and to perceive also the peace and patience vouchsafed whilst the heavy hand of approaching dissolution was laid upon him. In the heart of a child so young, there could, in such circumstances, be no guile; and if sincerity reigned in his feeble efforts to embrace the Saviour—that Saviour who rebuked his disciples when they forbade such to be brought to Him—may we not believe it was heaven-born and accepted?

'If babes so many years ago,  
His tender pity drew.  
He will not surely let me go  
Without a blessing too.'

"Before the lethargy had exerted its full influence over him, and when he had become so feeble that he could no longer place himself upon his knees, evening and morning he was heard whispering his infant supplications as he lay in helpless exhaustion on his uneasy bed.—At last, when his mind became enshrouded in increased darkness, he seemed incapable of retaining the ideas, and forgot even the words so often used by him, and in this painful state he would say to us, with a melancholy tone, 'Tell me my prayers,—not know what say,' and would repeat after us as we directed him."

Alexander was buried on the 17th of May, but the trial was not yet completed,—a fourth affliction was at hand.

ANN.

She was nine years of age.

"She had suffered little from whooping cough and the subsequent fever, and until the close of Alick's illness, was considered quite recovered. The fluctuation of feeling, of hope and fear, which agitated us with regard to Alick, was not communicated to the other children; for it was evident that they all began to tremble as if they were set apart to death; and to feel as if one after the other was to be smitten down. We sought to cheer them and to support their minds, as we best could, by referring to His grace and mercy, in whose hands their life was: but at length it became impossible for us to conceal our own dejection and uneasiness about their dear brother."

On the whole, this little work seems to be for general edification. It might be read with advantage, by children as well as parents,