

accidentally cast his eyes on the pillory, which suddenly so filled him with horror as completely to unman him; and it was with great difficulty that he kept himself from falling off his horse. He reached the tavern door in considerable danger; was obliged to be assisted to dismount; and it was some time before he could so get the better of his fears and confusion as to proceed on his journey.

Such is the constitution of the human mind! It will often resist with unshaken firmness the severest external pressure and violence; and sometimes it yields without reason, when it has nothing to fear. Or should we not rather say, such is the support that God sometimes affords to His people in the time of their necessity, and such the manner in which he leaves them to feel their own weakness, when that necessity is past, that all the praise may be given where alone it is due?—*Memoirs of the Life of the Rev. William Tennent.*

Prov. iv. 23.

“Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out it are the issues of life.”

What the philosophers say of waters, is as properly applicable to hearts. “It is hard to keep them within any bounds.” God hath set bounds and limits to them, yet how frequently do they transgress, not only the bounds of grace and religion, but even of reason and common honesty? This is that which affords many, matter of labor, fear and trembling to the dying day. It is not the cleansing of the hand that makes a Christian, for many a hypocrite can show as fair a hand as he; but the purifying, watching, and right ordering of the heart. This is the thing that causes so many sad complaints, and costs so many groans and tears. It was the pride of Hezekiah's heart that made him lie in the dust, mourning before the Lord. It was the fear of hypocrisy invading the heart, that made David cry, “Let my heart be found in thy statutes, that I be not