

## ROWLAND HILL AND LADY ANNE ERSKINE.

I have seen a story in print, I do not know whether it is true or not, but it illustrates a good point. I see our friend Dr. Newman Hall here to-night. The story I speak of is told of a predecessor of his, Rowland Hill. One day he was preaching in the open air to a vast crowd of people, when Lady Anne Erskine was riding by. She said to her footman, "Who is that man who is drawing so vast a crowd?" She was then told that it was the celebrated Rowland Hill. "Drive me," said she, "near the platform, so that I may listen." The man went on preaching, and seeing by the lady's dress that she belonged to royalty, he turned to some one on the platform and inquired who it was. They told him it was Lady Anne Erskine. He continued his preaching, and then all at once he stopped and said, "My friends, I have got something to-day to put up for sale. I am going to sell it by auction." Everybody, of course, was startled to think that a man should stop in the middle of a sermon to sell something by auction. Said he "It is the soul of Lady Anne Erskine. Is any one going to bid for her soul? Hark! Ah! I hear a bid. Who bids? 'Satan.' 'Satan, what will you give for this soul?' 'I will give riches and honour and pleasure. Yea, I will give the whole world for her soul.' Hark! I hear another bid. Ah! methinks I hear another bid. Who bids? 'The Lord Jesus.' 'Jesus, what will You give for this soul?' 'I will give peace and joy and comfort that the world knows not of. Yea, I will give eternal life for her soul.' He then turned to Lady Anne Erskine, and said, "You have heard the two bidders for your soul. Which bidder shall have it?" It is said that she ordered her footman to open her carriage door, and, rushing in, she began to weep, and said, "The Lord Jesus shall have my soul, if He will accept it." Now that may be true or not; but there is one thing that I *know* to be true—that there are two bidding for your soul and mine. Satan bids, and he offers that which he cannot give. He is a liar and has been from the foundation of the world. I pity the man who is living on the promises of the devil. He will never satisfy. But the Lord Jesus is able to give all that He offers. He offers peace and joy and comfort that the world knows not of. He offers eternal life in the kingdom of God. He offers a seat in His mansions. We are to sit with Him upon His throne. May God help you this night. Make up your minds to-night that you will not leave the Agricultural Hall until the great question of eternity is settled, until you have crossed the borderland, and pressed into the kingdom of God. Make up your mind to this. Make up your mind that this shall be the night of your salvation. "Now is the accepted time; now is the day of salvation."

## THE BOY AND THE DARK MOUNTAIN.

A few years ago there was a little story going through the American religious press that touched my heart as a father. It was about the death of a little boy. The mother thought her little boy was safe in the arms of Jesus. She thought he was trusting sweetly in Christ; but one day, as he drew along towards the chambers of death, she came into his room, and he said, as he was looking out of the window, "Mother, what are those mountains that I see yonder?" The mother said, "Eddie, there is no mountain in sight of the house." "Don't you see them, mother?" said he; "they're so high and so dark. Eddie has got to cross those mountains. Won't you take him in your arms and carry him over those mountains?" The mother said, "Eddie, I would if I could, but I cannot." Now, I want to say to you that there is a time coming when your mother cannot help you. There is a time coming when your friends cannot help you. When you come to the mountain, if you have not Christ you must take that journey alone, for there will be no one to help you then. What will you do in the swelling of Jordan, without a Saviour, without Christ? But, if you have Him, He won't leave you. What does he say? "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil. Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me."