

rance. But Socrates, knowing the dreadful death, chose rather to die by poison. Now this is an exact representation of sin ; it puts on the most beautiful appearances, and promises every happiness and pleasure, till once it gets you within its power, then you are pierced with its thousand stings, and at last you lament your foolishness when it is too late, and when your destruction is certain ; for when lust hath conceived it bringeth forth sin ; and sin when finished bringeth forth death. The Lord says, " His own iniquities shall take the wicked, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins," and sooner shall the Ethiopian change his skin, and the leopard his spots, than they that have been accustomed to sin learn to do well ; that is, sin is of such a nature, that the more you are willing to commit it, it will just bind you the faster in its chains, and you will be enticed by it to destruction.

O, my young friends if you were fully aware of the value of time which is flying so rapidly, every new year would spread an alarm in your souls, and every careless ear would hear the cry, prepare to meet thy God. You would look with as much terror and alarm on every dial which points how fast time is going, as the King of the Chaldeans, Belshazzar, did, when he saw the hand upon the wall ; and you would hear every hour strike with as much fear as he saw the writing on the wall. You would hear the solemn sound as if an angel spoke, but would not require, like him, to call in the wise men to tell you what it meant. Every hour points to you, and says, boy (or girl) thy kingdom is departing from you ; the precious moments you now enjoy to flee from the wrath to come, are nearly gone. But, perhaps, you are ready to answer, " I go to the chapel and sabbath school every Lord's day, and read my bible sometimes, and say a few words of prayer every night, and you are well pleased with yourself : and is this all your religion ? I shall just mention the case of a young man in this town. Now observe, he was neither a liar, nor a swearer, nor outwardly wicked. On the contrary, he had a good character as being a very fine young man. He was taken ill and then he began to think of his soul. One of his companions called upon him one day, to inquire how he was. He looked up in his friend's face, and in the most dreadful agony exclaimed, Eternity, Charles, Eternity ! Ah, whither, whither shall I flee ? On his friend saying he had never done any body any harm—Ah, said he, so I thought at one time, but now I know otherwise. I have despised the mercy of God, and rejected the offers of Christ. I have nothing to expect but the unsufferable pangs of everlasting burnings,—and a short time after expired. Now just allow yourself to think that ere long you may be stretched on a bed of sickness, when, perhaps, one of your friends with one hand will support your sinking head, and with the other wipe off the dying sweat, your healthy body wasted and decayed, your pale cheeks, hollow eyes, trembling pulse, feeble voice, all showing too truly the approach of death ; your friends anxiously leaning over you as if to catch the last word, your soul trembling on the edge of eternity, the judgment seat just about to burst on your sight, when your final doom will be forever fixed. At such a moment will time appear trifling ? If you have no hope of safety from the wrath of God, where, oh where, will you be able to hide your guilty head. Improve, then, moments given to secure a happy death by having the strong arms of Jesus to support you in that awful hour. Now, do you believe you are perishing ? Then come to Jesus, for it was such as you he came from heaven to save. Do you say you do not know the way to come to him, but you wish much to find it out ? It was for just such as you the bible was written by the command of God ; for he says, " I will lead the blind by a way that they know not, and in paths that they have not known." If all the kings of the earth were to join together and offer the world for heaven, would they get it ? No ! And can a sabbath scholar buy it ? Yes ! O that I could hear you saying, how shall I get it ? I will tell you. The price is your heart. Jesus says, blessed are ye poor in spirit, ye who are humble, who have given me your heart, for the kingdom of heaven is yours. Are you asking how you are to give Christ your heart. It is by loving him. If any boy or girl, Christ says, love me, I will love them ; and they that seek me shall find me. If you love Jesus, then you will love your bible, you will obey his commands, you will tell all your companions of Jesus, you will love all who love him, and if you love Jesus above every thing else, you will always be thinking of him.

Now, I would just conclude by asking, if anything can exceed the happiness of those who come to Jesus. They receive the forgiveness of their sins, are adopted into the family of Christ, and enjoy all the blessings which he only can give, and, being heirs with him, they receive a crown and a kingdom at death. But I would entreat you to remember that those glorious things are not for those who delay to think of them, but for those that commence immediately by coming to Jesus. The sooner you seek, and the more you love Jesus, the greater will be your happiness here and glory hereafter.