

ridiculed; he stands much in my way, and can form no part in my prayers. He therefore laid down again, in much confusion. The next day, however, he resumed his prayers, began to read religious books, listened to the admonitions of his mother, and attended the preaching of the gospel; insomuch that his father began now to be alarmed lest he should turn Methodist, in which case he threatened to abandon him. To prevent this, he proposed sending him to a university, and afterwards to purchase him a living, if he would go regularly into the church. This offer he accepted, and was entered at Queen's College, Oxford, May 9, 1773.

During his residence at the college he suffered many reproaches from his profligate fellow-students; and many secret conflicts in his own mind. At one time, while walking in the physic-gardens, he observed a fine pomegranate-tree, cut almost through the stem, near the root. On enquiring of the gardener the reason of this, he replied, 'This tree used to shoot so strong, that it bore nothing but leaves; but when I had cut it in this manner, it began to bear plenty of fruit.'—This explanation he instantly applied to his own case; and derived much consolation from the reflection. Thus the Lord pierces many of his chosen to the heart, to make them fruitful.

Sept. 22, 1776, Mr. Cecil was ordained Deacon. In the Lent term following, he took his degree of B. A. with great credit; and on Feb. 23, 1777, received Priest's orders. His first ministerial duty was with Mr. Pugh, of Rauceby, Lincolnshire; but soon after, at his request, he went to serve three churches, in Leicester-hire.—Thornton, Bagworth, and Markfield, till such time as Mr. Abbot, the late Vicar's son, should be able to take the charge. Here he not only laboured with success among the people, but was made the happy instrument of converting young Mr. Abbot himself, who became a faithful minister of the gospel. At Mr. C.'s

return to Rauceby, he was informed that two small livings had been procured for him at Lewes, in Sussex, of which he now went to take possession. Both livings together brought in about 80*l.* which he was obliged to expend in employing a curate, as he was long afflicted with a rheumatic disorder in his head, through the dampness of his situation, which obliged him eventually to remove to London. He retained, however, the livings till he had the satisfaction to resign them to the late Rev. Mr. Dale.

He now resided at Islington, and used to supply different London churches and chapels in the establishment. For some years he preached the early Sabbath Morning Lecture at Lotbury, and a Sunday and Wednesday Evening Lecture in Orange Street Chapel, Leicesterfields, besides the whole duty at St. John's.

In 1787 he was appointed to the Sunday Evening Lecture at Spitalfields, which he preached alternately with that of Long Acre Chapel, both in connection with Mr. Foster. But his most important sphere of usefulness was at St. John's Chapel, Bedford Row, in which he began to preach, March, 1780. [This chapel was part of the estate of the Rugby charity; and the managing trustee was Sir Eardly Wilmot, who resided in the neighbourhood. To him Mr. C. was recommended by Dr. Cornwallis, then Archbishop of Canterbury; who had given Mr. C. one of his livings at Lewes.] He was encouraged to take this large and commodious place, which cost £500 to put it into repair, by the support of Mrs. Wilberforce (and Mr. Cardale, of Bedford Row, whom Mrs. Cecil styles 'the Nursing-Father both of St. John's and of its Minister; and who 'still remains the uniform friend of his bereaved family.' For the first three years he received no emolument from this chapel; and his income on commencing this duty was but £80, which accrued from his lecture at