

More than once, the author has had reason to think that he might, perhaps, have been shortly added to the number, and have left this undertaking to be completed by the hand of another; but, through the mercy of God, he has been spared to finish and present the History of the Husband and the Father to the amiable Widow, with her five orphan Children, and to the churches of the Saints of the Most High.

In surrendering his work to the public, the Author feels some of the sadness experienced at parting with an old friend, endeared by time and offices of kindness. He is deeply conscious that his performance, like every thing human, is imperfect; but he is not less conscious of having laboriously endeavoured to render it an instrument of usefulness to the souls of men, and to the cause of the Redeemer. He will long remember the solemn pleasure with which he often mused among the papers of his departed friend, sometimes at the hour when "deep sleep falleth upon man," and at other times when the lark carols at early dawn, and "man goeth forth to his labours." These have been some of the happiest hours of his life, as the work itself, as a literary occupation, has been by far the most profitable he ever engaged in to his own immortal spirit. If the reader shall experience but half the benefit and satisfaction enjoyed by the writer, he will deem himself amply rewarded for the expense of purchase and the toil of perusal. It has supplied to the Author not only "reproof, correction, and instruction," but also example, stimulus, and encouragement; and now his prayer is, that, what it hath proved to him, it may prove to multitudes.