

fore hand and keep up an uncommon watch and pray more often and more earnestly ; so that I thought if I was left to be something rude and sinful, when I got there, for the sake of keeping up my name among the polite company I should not feel so guilty when I was there, or when I came away ; and although I was thus chained to the covenant of works, yet I would not allow myself to think I had any self-righteousness, but intended to be saved by free grace. Thus one may see that the greatest pharisee and most strict moralist are ignorant of it, and will say, that they expect salvation by free grace. I believe thousands and thousands perish there forever, and go down to their graves depending on their own performances, for want of knowing what it is to depend on, and receive free grace ; and imagine they do it, and do not know that they are deceived, until lost to all eternity. But O the goodness of God to me a wretch ! his spirit still followed me and would not suffer me to settle down ; for even in the height of my carnal mirth, I was often, while on the floor in my dance, so alarmed to a sense of my condition, that I could hardly contain myself, seeing that I was rushing against the bosses of God's buckler, with such dreadful views of the gulph of perdition beneath my feet, and the danger of my being cut off, and dropping into an irrevocable state, that I have often, while in the dance, cried out with mental cries, O Lord God, have mercy on me, have mercy on me ! and do not cut me off in my sins. Sometimes I would leave the company, (often speaking to the fiddler to cease from playing, as if I was tired) and go out and walk about crying and praying, as if my very heart would break, and beseeching God, that he would not cut me off, nor give me up to hardness of heart, but spare me, until I was brought to repentance : yea I had now such a sense of my lost and undone condition, and the emptiness of all those pleasures and earthly enjoyments, that I did not attend nor carry on the frolicks, because I found any happiness or sweetness in them, but only that I might keep up my credit among the young people, and not be cast out of their esteem, and despised by them ; and I would make an excuse of that before God, alledging that I did not want to follow them, and took no pleasure in them, but that I must and thought it to be my duty to keep good fellowship with my neighbors, and keep up civil society, &c. and thus, wretched mortal as I was, I