

public debt, contracted by building. And it was agreed, 1. That every member of the society that was able should contribute a penny a week: 2. That the whole society should be divided into little companies or classes, about twelve in each class: and 3. That one person in each should receive that contribution of the rest, and bring it in to the stewards weekly. Thus began that excellent institution, merely upon a temporal account; from which we reaped so many spiritual blessings, that we soon fixt the same rule in all our societies.

XX. In May,\* on the repeated invitation of John Nelson, who had been for some time calling sinners to repentance at Birstal, and the adjoining towns, in the West-riding of Yorkshire, I went to Birstal, and found his labour had not been in vain. Many of the greatest profligates in all the country were now changed. Their blasphemies were turned to praise. Many of the most abandoned drunkards were now sober; many sabbath-breakers remembered the sabbath to keep it holy. The whole town wore a new face; such a change did God work by the artless testimony of one plain man; and from thence his word sounded forth to Leeds, Wakefield, Halifax, and all the West-riding of Yorkshire.

XXI. I had long had a desire to visit the poor colliers near Newcastle upon Tyne. And being now so far in my way, I went forward, and on Friday 28, came to Newcastle. On Sunday morning I preached at the end of Sandgate, the poorest and most contemptible part of the town. In the evening I preached on the side of the adjoining hill, to thousands upon thousands. I could only just make a beginning now. But on November 13, I came again, and preached morning and evening, till the end of December. And it pleased God so to bless his word, that above eight hundred persons were now joined together in his name: besides many, both in the towns, villages, and lone houses, within ten miles of the town. I never saw a work of God in any other place, so evenly and gradually carried on. It continually rose step by step. Not so much seemed to be done at any one time, as had frequently been at Bristol or London;

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