

the next day writing, with his own hand, in RED chalk, on the WHITE-WASHED wall, by the side of his bed,—"And your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams." (Acts ii. 17.)

The boy, I believe, said little more about his dream, but most likely he looked upon it as premonitory; since, from that night of terror to the day of his death (about three months after), no circumstance could for a moment induce him to forgo the most constant and earnest attendance at Tottenham Court Chapel, in the neighbourhood. All this in a boy not thirteen years old was so extraordinary, that insensible indeed to all impressions, all convictions connected with the great mysteries and mercies of the Almighty, must he be who does not see in it a manifest act of divine providence to warn, indeed, not merely the poor boy, so soon snatched off, but the unthinking, the careless, and the sceptical.

On the day of the fatal accident, the boy in a very lively mood came to his father, and asked him to give him some money, with permission to go out and buy a bird. His request was granted, and he left the house. As it afterwards appeared, he called, on his way to make the purchase, upon a favorite school-fellow, to ask him to go with him.

The same afternoon, two strangers came asking for Mr. Stothard. They requested to speak with him alone. "It is about Tom, said Mrs. Stothard, in the greatest perturbation of mind." Mr. Stothard and the gentlemen went into a front parlor. The door was shut. The anxious

mother could not restrain the feelings of agonized curiosity that possessed her; she listened at the door, and heard that her son Thomas was shot dead by a schoolfellow, who was accidentally handling a gun, and who not knowing it to be loaded, aimed it at the poor boy when they were about going out together.

The foregoing narrative brings to mind what Elihu said to Job.—"For God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falleth upon men, in slumberings upon the bed: then He openeth the ears of men and sealeth their instruction. That He may withdraw man from his purpose, and hide pride from man. He keepeth back his soul from the pit." We cannot but acknowledge that God does sometimes go out of his way thus to warn His creatures, and well is it when the warning is obeyed. But let not the reader expect that he will be thus warned. God has not given promise of this for any man to trust to even in the days of Job, and how much less in this day, when once for all He has expressed His will, and made known His character in His word. Not that only, for in that same word He has warned and expostulated with the sons of men. He has disclosed before us that dark and terrible eternity to which so many are as carelessly as they are certainly hastening.

He has plainly said that the broad road leads to destruction, and "the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." He has forewarned men of their danger, has foretold them of the impending judgment,