

but how many of us are converted? Oh! how indescribably wretched is the state of that being, (and it is not a solitary case) who loathes yet cleaves to his lusts, whom his base habits have bound in such adamant chains, that all the persuasions of his better reason, all the strugglings of his polluted prayers—all the terrors of the violated law—all the consciousness of his misery in time and eternity, is incapable of liberating from the sins that most easily beset him. He beholds himself abandoned by health, fortune, fame, friends; by all, but his companions in iniquity. He beholds the sword of divine vengeance suspended by a solitary thread over him. He beholds the grave yawning to usher him into the presence of his offended judge, yet he will not, cannot reform. Our great dramatic poet, in delineating the Usurper of the Throne of Denmark, has drawn with the most appalling truth; the soul-agonies of such an unfortunate wretch.—Such is his soliloquy.

Then I'll look up;

My fault is past. But, Oh! what form of prayer

Can serve my turn—What then? what rests?

Try what repentance can: What can it not?

Yet what can it, *when one cannot repent.*

O! wretched state, O! bosom black as death.

If we retrace the history of the past, are there not some—many, amongst us; who felt remorse for our impiety and resolved as we did wickedly, to do so no more. Yet soon, in the emphatic language of St. Peter, returned like the dog to his vomit, or the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire. But dismal as is the condition of the man, whose religious convictions and practice are at continual variance, still more hopeless is his state, who though equally inconsistent; is sunk in carnal security, and unconscious or indifferent, as to his danger makes no effort to avert his impending fate; like the intoxicated mariner, asleep on the high and giddy mast, whom the winds and waves but lull in deeper slumber, till comes the rushing blast, that precipitates him in the deep. Repentance is the gift of God, but freely bestowed on all who ask it with patience and sincerity in the appointed way. As