

rob in its own part of the country, and then exchange the booty with one another, to prevent detection.

When Atkinson had made this confession, his previous hardness disappeared. He was completely broken down, and wept bitterly. I prayed with him again, and was about leaving when he requested me to come and stay with him that night, as it would be his last. I accordingly returned in the evening, in company with the Rev. Mr. Irwin and two of our class-leaders. Atkinson was in deep distress of mind, crying to God for mercy. About 12 o'clock that night God answered prayer, and set the guilty soul at liberty. The transformation was glorious. The condemned man started to his feet, and praised God so loudly that the jailer heard him, and fearing something was wrong, came down and opened the cell. The jail was built in the circular form, the cells opening on a large hall in the centre. The jailer now opened the outer doors of these cells, so that, through the inner grating, the prisoners could see and hear all that was going on. The guards were then brought in, also the families of the jailer and turnkeys, and Mr. Irwin preached a most powerful sermon. We continued in the morning the Rev. William Finlay, (father of Mr. Samuel Finlay, now of Montreal), who was stationed on an adjoining circuit, arrived in town, and to him I related the whole affair. He kindly consented to stay with Atkinson, as the rest of us were worn out. Mr. Finlay told me afterwards that the parting scene between Atkinson and his wife was unspeakably affecting. He exhorted her to forsake her sins and seek pardon from God, telling her, at the same time, what God had done for his soul. The Sheriff was present all the time, and seemed astonished. He said—"How can you be so sure of what God has done?" Atkinson replied—"Were not my feet chained of late, so that I could not walk?" "Yes," said the Sheriff. "Well," continued the prisoner, you ordered the chains to be taken off, and now I can walk; and I am just as sure that God for Christ's sake, has taken off the chains of sin from my soul and set me at liberty." On the scaffold he exhorted the people to keep from bad company and gambling, declaring that these had been his destruction.

The next day I made out a list of the stolen property, from whom taken, and where to be found, which I took to the Mayor, informing him of the whole affair. A day or two after, I called again, to see what he had done. He said he had called a meeting of the magistrates for consultation, and that they had come to the conclusion not to do anything, as it would only cause trouble and disturbance in the country, and perhaps not result in the recovery of the property after all. Getting no satisfaction from the Mayor, I concluded to try what I could do myself. I accordingly wrote to a man who lived about nine miles from Londonderry, from whom Atkinson had stolen a horse, saying I wished to see him. When he came, I detailed the matter, telling him the horse could be found at a place about 60 miles distant and that I would give him a letter to a gentleman in that neighborhood with whom I was acquainted. He went accordingly, and delivered my letter. The gentleman went with him to the place, and there they found the horse plowing. They spoke to the man, who said he had bought the horse from a neighbor, who, in turn had bought it from the man to whom it had been sent by Atkinson. He gladly gave up the horse to save further trouble.

The affair soon got abroad, and created no small stir in the city. When the owner of the horse came to thank me for the aid I had given, I said to him,—"You have now seen what the grace of God did for poor Atkinson; and the proof of his sincerity is seen in his anxiety that all the stolen property should be restored to its rightful owners. Would you have any objection to Mr. Irwin going out and preaching to your neighbors?" He replied, "Not the least, provided you will come with him." This I consented to do, and an appointment was arranged for the following Sunday afternoon. There were no Methodists within 9 miles of that neighborhood at the time, and we expected only a few of the neighbors to preach to; but before we arrived the affair had been circulated through the country, and the people turned out in such numbers that no house could hold them, so Mr. Irwin had to preach in a field. The people seemed deeply impressed, and invited him to preach the next Sunday, which he did. This led to regular preaching in the