

"'Yes, sir, here it is.'

"'That is very well done. A good chain; but it is not long enough.'

"'Not long enough? Why, it is just the length you told me to make it.'

"'Oh yes, yes; but I have decided to have it much longer than at first; work on it another week; I will then call and pay you for it.'

"And thus, flattered with praise, and encouraged with the promise of a full reward for his labour, he toils on, adding link to link till the appointed time when his employer calls again, and, as before, praises his work; but still he insists that the chain is too short.

"'But,' says the blacksmith, 'I can do no more. My iron is expended, and so is my strength. I need the pay for what I have done, and can do no more till I have it.'

"'Oh, never mind; I think you have the means of adding a few links more; the chain will then answer the purpose for which it is intended, and you shall be fully rewarded for all your labour.'

"With his remaining strength and a few scraps of iron, he adds the last link of which he is capable. Then says the man to him, 'The chain is a good one: you have toiled long and hard to make it. I see that you can do no more, and now you shall have your reward.' But instead of paying the money he takes the chain, binds the workman hand and foot, and casts him into a furnace of fire.

"Such," said the preacher, "is a course of sin. It promises much, but its reward is death; and each sin is an additional link to that chain which will confine the transgressor in the prison-house of hell. 'Now, therefore, be ye not mockers, lest your bands be made strong.'

Providentially, there was in the congregation that day a blacksmith, who had lived a very wicked life. He was much excited, and at the close of the meeting, declared that the whole discourse had been directed to him; and he wished to know who had been telling the preacher all about him.—The preacher had never even heard that there was such a man; but, in the course of the week, he had the pleasure of knowing him as a brother in Christ.

COME TO JESUS.

YE WHO ARE YOUNG, COME.

Youthful reader, be persuaded to give your early years to God. There is a special promise for you: "Those that seek me *early* shall find me." Perhaps you think, "I am too young to be religious yet; let me enjoy the world a little; I have plenty of time before me." Too young to be religious? But you are not too young to sin, nor too young to die, nor too young to be cast into hell. You may not live to reach manhood, much less old age. Multitudes die as young as you. If you enter a burial-ground, how many of the graves are those of young people. Death may be even now preparing to strike you. Oh then come at once to Jesus. You greatly err, if you think religion will make you gloomy. It alone can render you truly happy. Many young people have tried it, who will all tell you that the pleasures of piety are far better than all the delights of sin and vanity. You will find that this is true, if you come to Jesus. Is it likely he will let his followers be less happy than the servants of the world? Besides, how can you dare to live a day longer rejecting him? He commands us *at once* to believe and obey him. Every day we put off repentance we commit a fresh act of rebellion, and treasure up wrath against the day of wrath. You say you will repent when you are old. But we need the Spirit of God to help us to repent; and if you say, "While I am young I will serve Satan, and not till I am near death will I turn to God," do you think God will give you his Holy Spirit at all? Is not this to *quench* the Spirit? May you not become quite careless, and indisposed to repent? Very few are converted when old. If you come not to Jesus when young, it is not likely you will come at all. Habit will fasten strong chains around you, which will be harder to burst asunder every day. While you wait, Satan works. He is busy tying knots. You are his prisoner; and he is making the cords which bind you more and more secure. Whenever you sin he ties another knot. Every impression you smother, every hour you delay, adds a fresh knot. If you do not escape now, how can you expect to break loose when