

them, had before appeared to *him* to be insuperable; but she had conquered them all at once, by going directly to the sick person herself; and I could scarcely help thinking but that the same might be done now.

She came to me, and I told her candidly, that I expected more encouragement from *her* than I had just received from her brother. However, she was of the same opinion with him. "Her sister-in-law," she said, "appeared this morning not to know her; and with respect to the danger of going into the room, being herself delicate in health, she had been ordered by the medical men to enter it as little as possible. Besides," she continued, "there must, I suppose, be some persons to take the sacrament with her; and whom shall we find for that purpose? Her own relations, you know, Sir, being Baptists, cannot be asked to do it."

"True," I replied eagerly, and with some surprise in my countenance: "but there is the poor lady's husband; there is his cousin; there is *you*."—"Ah! Sir," she said in a moment, and with trepidation; "I could not venture upon such a thing, I am not prepared." "Not prepared, my good lady?" I rejoined, still with a tone of surprise, but mixing gentleness with it, lest I might do mischief; "alas! alas! you have had too good an opportunity for preparation. Your own health, you have just informed me, is delicate, and therefore precarious; but you have besides a terrible lesson before your eyes of the uncertainty of human life, which a kind Providence intends, no doubt, for the instruction of this family."

"Here we have the mistress of it cut down, like a flower, in the bloom of youth and beauty. You have been a daily witness of the grief occasioned by this unexpected blow; and it has not passed over your head, like a summer's cloud, without exciting, I may well presume, many a serious thought, and many a pious resolution, with regard to yourself. Can there be a better preparation than the close view of death itself advancing with rapid strides, as he has done in this house, and laying waste before him youth, and health, and strength? Shall God preach to us with this mighty, terrific voice, and we will not hear?"

As I proceeded in this manner, I assumed naturally a more solemn tone. She was somewhat overpowered by it, but excused herself by saying, that the effect of her sister-in-law's sickness had been very much weakened by the incessant cares of the family, which had devolved upon herself; and that many perplexing and vexatious circumstances had fallen out to disturb and unsettle her thoughts. "However, Sir," she added, "I will get ready in the best manner that I am able, and I will watch diligently for any opportunity that may occur; especially as I know that poor Mr. Breerton herself was very desirous of receiving the sacrament."