

farming, to which I have said, I was partial—or a mechanical art. The prospect of a farmer's life, however, closed with my leaving my brother's; and I became a boy of all, or any work, about a tannery. When I was converted I was receiving the monthly wages of four dollars. At that wage I continued to work for one year after my becoming religious; and I now wish I had never sought any other relation; for my wages would have soon been increased, and would have gone on increasing every year as my strength and activity increased. And with increased wages, I might have done more for an old, infirm father and mother, and a blind brother whose only income was a pension of £20 (\$80) a year; besides I might have saved something to educate myself. Many well-intentioned friends said I ought to learn a trade. Of these, the late Joshua Van Allen, a zealous young Methodist, then very influential in the junior circles of the York society, was especially forward and earnest. And as there was nothing so attainable as Mr. Ketchum's business, through my mother, between whom and him there was a great mutual respect, I applied and was accepted to learn the tanning and currying trade; and gave up the horse and cart, the hayfork and shovel; and took up the "flesher" and "worker," and in due time the "scouring brush," and "currying knife;" but then as I was supposed to be learning a business, I had to keep on at the wages I received when only fourteen; now I was sixteen and on to seventeen