

They were beyond measure astonished at what he had to tell ; for so long a time had elapsed without hearing anything of the merchant or his family that some supposed him to be dead, others that he had left the country. Among the rest he called upon the lawyer, and described to him the wretchedness he had witnessed ; but even this could not move him to compassion. He declared the merchant should not leave the prison without paying him every farthing ! Mr. Wesley again visited the other creditors, who, considering the case of the sufferer, agreed to raise the sum and release him. Some gave £100, others £200, and another £300. The affairs of the merchant took a different turn : God prospered him ; and in the second year he called his former creditors together, thanked them for their kindness, and paid the sum so generously advanced. Success continuing to attend him, he was enabled to pay all his debts and realize considerable property. His afflictions made such a deep impression upon his mind that he determined to remove the possibility of others suffering from the same cause ; and for this purpose advanced a considerable sum as a foundation fund for the relief of small debtors, and the very first person who partook of the same was the *incororable lawyer* "—*New York Christian Advocate*.

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None but such as are taught of God can thus express themselves, in sincerity, in reference to the precepts and promises of God's word. The carnal mind will ever desire and prefer carnal objects. When, therefore, Divine and eternal things are preferred to the perishable objects of creature enjoyment, it is a happy proof that the mind has become the subject of a quickening and Divine influence. Such a preference for God's word is a high evidence of acceptance, and a striking proof of meekness for the heavenly state.

