

“The writings of infidels must be read with caution and fear. There are cold, intellectual, speculative, malignant foes to Christianity. I dare not tamper with such, when I am in my right mind. I have received serious injury, for a time, even when my duty has called me to read what they have to say. The daring impiety of Belsham’s answer to Wilberforce ruffled the calm of my spirit. I read it over when at Bath, in the autumn of 1798. I waked in pain, about two o’clock in the morning. I tried to cheer myself by an exercise of faith on Jesus Christ. I lifted up my heart to Him, as sympathizing with me, and engaged to support me. Many times have I thus obtained quiet and repose: but now I could lay no hold on him: I had given the enemy an advantage over me: my habit had imbibed poison: my nerves trembled: my strength was gone! ‘Jesus Christ sympathize with you and relieve you! It is all enthusiasm! It is idolatry! Jesus Christ has preached his sermons, and done his duty, and is gone to heaven! And there he is, as other good men are! Address your prayers to the Supreme Being!’ I obtain relief in such cases by dismissing from my thoughts all that enemies or friends can say. I will have nothing to do with Belsham or with Wilberforce. I come to Christ himself. I hear what he says. I turn over the Gospels. I read his conversations. I dwell especially on his farewell discourses with his disciples, in St. John’s Gospel. If there be meaning in words, and if Christ were not a deceiver or deceived, the reality of the Christian’s life, in Him and from Him by faith, is written there as with a sun-beam.”—*Remains*.

“I feel many sweet and strong ties to the present life, in my family and in my Church, to which all earthly possessions bear no comparison; yet, to ‘depart and be with Christ’ is doubtless ‘far better.’ But I have been this morning perplexed with the consideration that when I shall ‘see Him as He is’ I shall not be able to forgive myself for