LETTERS
ON
Spiritual Subjects,
AND
DIVERS OCCASIONS;
SENT TO
Relations and Friends.
Mrs. Anne Dutton

By One who has tasted that the Lord is Gracious.

Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do, 1 Thess. v. 11.
Children, have ye any Meat? John xxi. 5.

Vol. VI.

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LETTERS

Spurious Subjects

Letters of the Times

In the Times

Kindly to the Times and to the Reader

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LETTERS
ON
Spiritual Subjects, &c.

LETTER I.
To Mr. W—s.

My very dear Brother,

Rejoice in the Lord with you, and bless Him for his great Goodness towards you. It glads my Heart, that the Work of Faith is carry'd on with Power in your Soul, and that you are favour'd with the full Assurance of Faith. Oh my dear Brother, how holy should we be, that can say, My Beloved is mine, and I am His! What a Debt of Love do we owe to the Lord our Lover, Jesus! Oh that we may watch continually, against all the Efforts of our Lord's Enemies, and in all Things to behave as his Friends! And whenever we fail, oh may we look again, upon Him whom we have pierced, and mourn, and be in Bitterness for Him, as for a First-born, as for an only Son! Well it is for us, that there is a Fountain set open for Sin, and for Uncleanness, for the House of David, and for the Inhabitants A 2
of Jerusalem, to wash in. For, alas, how often do we contract Defilement! But the cleansing Blood of Christ, being of eternal Efficacy, upon every fresh Application thereto, we go up again from the washing, clean and strong; as the Sheep of Christ, that hear his Voice, to follow Him our great Shepherd, the Lamb once sacrificed for us, even whithersoever He goeth: In all those Paths of Duty, which He has mark'd out for us, by his great Example and Command. And God our Father, is always the God of Peace unto us in Christ; that multiplies Grace and Peace towards us, that extends the same like a River, a full, free, flowing River! — This then is our Work, my Brother, that we should always be concern'd about; to fear the Lord and his Goodness: And under the glorious Influence of his Mercies, to present our Bodies a living Sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, by Jesus Christ. Are we among the Election, that obtain Salvation, while the Rest are blinded? Oh distinguishing Grace to us! How greatly are we beloved! And how holy should we be as the Elect of God!

Much it rejoiced my Heart, to hear that the Lord's Work in awakening Sinners, and reviving Saints, is carried on with you. Oh may you still see greater Things than these! My dear Love to dear Mr. H. and to his Fellow-Labourers in the Gospel of Christ. I heartily wish them all Assistance and Success.—I would gladly be remembred to the dear Souls that are under Concern, What they must do to be saved: Tell them from me, This is the Work of God, that they believe on Him whom He hath sent. That if they look to the Saviour, they shall live. For this is the Will of the Father, that whosoever believeth the Son, and believeth on Him, might not perish, but have
have everlasting Life—I rejoice that our Lord is on his Way. He comes, He comes quickly! He is gathering in his own by Grace. And when that Work is done; we shall see our Saviour, and all appear with Him in Glory. Lord, hasten that bright Day! Let thy Kingdom come, and thy Will be done on Earth, as it is in Heaven!

My dear Love to your Children. Tell them from me, That Jesus Christ receives Sinners, and invites them to come unto Him. That his Arms of Grace stand wide open in the Gospel to receive them; that if they come not to Him, they must perish for ever. Oh may they hear his Voice, and come in to Christ, to their everlasting Salvation by Him!—I request your Prayers; and with dear Love, am,

Ever yours,


LETTER II.

To Mrs. G—t.

My dear Friend,

From Sympathy with you in your present Distress, I would write a Line to tell you, That the Saviour's Bowels, yern towards distressed Souls. Oh, are you a miserable Sinner? Christ is a merciful Saviour. Are you a helpless Creature? Christ has an Almighty Arm, to save to the uttermost. Are you bound with the Cords and Fetters of Sin; Christ has Power to forgive Sins. He can say to you, Be loosed from thine Iniquities; from the Guilt, the Burden, the Power of Sin. Are you tempted and afflicted by Satan? Christ can relieve all that are oppressed of the Devil. We have not an High Priest that cannot be touched
touched with the Feeling of our Infirmities; but was in all Points tempted like as we are. And in that He Himself hath suffered, being tempted, He is able, from an infinite Sympathy, an infinite Merit, and an infinite Power, to succour them that are tempted. Are you filled with terrible Fears of the Vengeance of eternal Fire? Jesus can deliver you from the Wrath which is to come. Do you want Peace with God, and Peace of Conscience? The Blood of Christ hath made Peace for, and can give it to, the very chief of Sinners. Is your Heart sore broken? Jesus can heal it. Are you in all Respects, a most miserable, needy, imprison’d Sinner? Christ is a Saviour, just such a one as you need. That hath all Fullness, that hath it for us, that is willing to communicate, that delighteth in Mercy, and that in infinite Faithfulness to his Promise, will in no wise cast out, any poor Soul that comes unto Him for Salvation. And this Saviour, who is mighty to save, is an authoriz’d Saviour. For, Him hath God the Father sealed: Appointed, authoriz’d, commission’d to save Sinners unto the uttermost: From the utmost of their Distresses, to the utmost of their Desires; from the deepest Misery, to the highest Glory. The Spirit of the Lord (faith He) is upon me: Because He hath anointed me to preach glad Tidings to the Poor, to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim Liberty to the Captives, and the opening of the Prison unto them that are bound. To proclaim the acceptable Year of the Lord. That is, The Year of the Lord’s Release, the Jubilee of the glorious Gospel; which sets forth Sinners, poor Bondslaves, free, and makes them inherit all Things, in Grace and Glory, for Time, and for Eternity.

And lo, Now is the accepted Time, now is the Day of Salvation. The Day of Grace is not past with you, nor
nor with any Soul, that hath the least Desire to find Mercy. It is now, now, with you still. The Voice of the Gospel unto you is, To-Day, after so long a Time; To-Day, if you will hear his Voice, harden not your Heart, Heb. 4. 7. Oh turn not away from the dear Saviour, who most lovingly invites you to come unto Him, even you, as it were by Name: Saying, Come unto me all ye that labour, and are heavy-laden; and I will give you Rest, Matt. 11. 28. Oh come, dear Soul, and tell the Lord Jesus all your Griefs. For Compassion, there is none like Him. Shew before Him all your Burdens; his own kind Hand, will take them off your Shoulders. Oh come and see, how good, how gracious, how mighty to save, the Lord the Saviour is! And how faithful He is to his Promise, I will give you Rest.—I will in no wise cast out! &c. Oh say not in Unbelief, There is no Mercy for me; but come to Christ and see. Come, see what the Saviour will say to you, if his Mercy will not bid you live. Yea, come, tho' you have done as evil Things as you could; tho' laden with innumerable Sins, Griefs and Fears. For the Saviour will abundantly pardon, abundantly comfort, abundantly deliver, and in all Respects, will do for you more exceeding abundantly than you can ask or think! Oh return unto the Lord, with a who can tell but He may be gracious? Thousands of Souls have found Mercy, that came to the Throne of Grace, only with a Peradventure that they might find it; tho' attended with innumerable Fears that they should not. Yea, let me say, never did any Soul perish, that cast itself down at the Saviour's Feet, in all its Misery, to find Mercy; nor ever shall, even to the World's End. Mercy reigns, Mercy triumphs, Mercy rejoiceth against Judgment. I will be merciful
to their Unrighteousness, faith the Lord, and their Sins, and their Iniquities, will I remember no more. This is God's new Covenant of Free Grace in Christ. And He calls poor Sinners to come unto Him, and promiseth to make it with them. He bids them lay bold on His Covenant, when just ready to sink into Perdition. An unto every Soul that stretcheth out the Hand of Faith, however feeble and weak its Motion may be, to embrace the Promise of God's Free Grace in Christ; unto that Soul He gives his Son, and eternal Life in Him. Christ is held forth in the free Promise of the Gospel, on Purpose for poor Sinners to receive and embrace Him. He is exalted high, as the only Saviour, that miserable Sinners, from the Ends of the Earth, Souls that are at the greatest Distance from God, might look unto Him, and be saved. It is the declared Will of God, That perishing Sinners should believe on Christ, the sent Saviour; and that believing, they should have Life thro' his Name. That they should believe there is Salvation, a free, a full, an everlasting Salvation in Christ, for the chief of Sinners; that they should call themselves upon Him for it, into his Arms, down at his Feet, to obtain it: And that thus believing, they should not perish, but have everlasting Life. — And as hearing the Gospel of Christ, is God's appointed Means for the begetting and nourishing of Faith in the Souls of poor Sinners; it is our Duty, in this Ordinance, as well as in private Prayer, converse with Christian Friends, &c. to seek Jesus. For, Blessed (faith our Lord) is the Man that heareth me, watching Daily at my Gates, waiting at the Posts of my Doors. For whoso findeth me, findeth Life, and shall obtain Favour of the Lord, Prov. 8. 34, 35. Wherefore, my dear Friend, be intreated to seek Jesus,
to seek him in all the Ways of his Appointment. To seek first the Kingdom of God, and the Righteousness thereof; and all other Things shall be added unto you. For the Lord God (the Saviour) is a Sun and Shield: He will give Grace and Glory: No good Thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly, Ps. 84. 11. And that we may be upright Walkers, we must come to Christ, as poor Sinners. And blessed be God, that there is Room for us to come as such. Since Jesus died for Sinners, and God will be gracious unto every Soul, that comes at his Call, and seeks for that Mercy thro' Christ, which He hath promised to bestow.—Haste then, my dear Friend, haste to Christ, the City of Refuge, that glorious Hope set before you in the Gospel. The City Gates, the Heart and Arms of Christ, stand wide open, to receive and embrace you. The Way is prepar’d by Free Grace, and the Stumbling-blocks, from your own Sinfulness and Unworthines, are taken up. Run then by Faith, flee for your Life, while the glorious Promises and Declarations of Grace, stand on each Side of you, all pointing unto Christ, as so many Hands in the Way of the Manslayer for his Direction, with this Inscriptiion, Refuge! Refuge! 'Flee, Soul, haste thee unto Christ, in whom thou wilt be for ever safe, from the Avenger of Blood that pursues thee. For, by Him all that believe are justified from all Things, from which they could not be justified by the Law of Moses. And, in this Lord the Saviour, the chief of Sinners, shall be saved with an everlasting Salvation, and shall not be ashamed nor confounded, World without End.'—That you, my dear Friend, by the Drawings of the Father, may
may come to Christ; unto your present Peace and Joy, and everlasting Glory: is the earnest Desire of Your affectionate Friend,

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LETTER III.

To Mr. T—y.

My dear and honour'd Brother in the Lord,

Yours I receiv'd, and return Thanks. I rejoice with you for the Advancement of our Lord's Kingdom and Glory in the Increase of his willing Subjects, where he hath called you to labour in his blessed Gospel.—The Account you gave me, of the Lord's blessing my poor Books at Br——ly, &c. thro' his gracious Influence upon my Heart, melted me down into Tears of humble Joy before him, and engag'd me to give Glory unto the God of all Grace.

— I sympathize with you, my dear Brother, under your present Affliction, "of a lifeless Frame of Soul, which (in some Degree) comes upon you." I am glad you dread it; that is your great Mercy. The Lord preserve the Fear of slumbering and sleeping in your Heart! While that prevails, there will be striving against carnal Security, and wrestling with God for quickning Grace, to maintain and increase your Spirituality. As in Nature, when Persons go to Sleep, they disband all Cares, and compose themselves to Rest; so in Grace, when Persons once grow carlels, and indulge to spiritual Slumber and Sleep; they are presently overcome therewith. And as in natural
natural Sleep, which is the Image of Death, the natural Senses are bound up and restrained from their proper Exercise; so in spiritual Sleep, the Life of Grace in Believers, is as to its Exercise, prevailed over by the Death of Sin, that dwells and works in them, and their spiritual Senses are rendered inactive towards those glorious Objects, about which they ought to be conversant. Natural Sleep indeed, in due Measure, as to the present State of our frail Bodies, is necessary and useful for the Preservation of our natural Life. But spiritual Sleep, directly tends to the Destruction of our spiritual Life; it preys upon our Graces and Comforts, and eats up the Vitals of Christianity. While we sleep spiritually, we lose our Time, our precious Opportunities of growing in Grace, and in the Knowledge of Christ; of being useful to others, both Saints and Sinners, in our Generation; of glorifying God in this World; and so far as we yield to it, we lose of that Crown of Glory, which we should otherwise receive at our Lord’s Appearing. And therefore, we have Reason to dread spiritual Slumber; and in the Use of all appointed Means, at our Lord’s Command, to watch: That our Lights may be burning, our Loins girded, and ourselves like Men that wait for their Lord. And especially ought we to watch, since to excite us to Diligence, our Lord faith, At such an Hour as you think not, the Son of Man cometh.

I well know, my dear Brother, that we can’t hold our own Souls in Life. But by our Neglect of frequent secret Prayer unto God, reading of his Word, and Meditation thereon, we doubtless may, and many Times do, provoke the Lord to withhold from us the quickning Influences of his Grace.——

And: however from his free, rich, all-overflowing Mercy,
Mercy, he is pleased to over-rule our Deadness, to shew us more of our own Nothingness, and of our continual Need of his All-sufficient Grace; to teach us greater Humility, and Sympathy with others; to make us set a higher Value upon the Life-giving Influences of his Holy Spirit, when he is pleased to breathe upon our Souls afresh; and so to give him all the Glory of our spiritual Life and Usefulness, in its Maintenance and Increase, as well as in its Beginning: Yet let us beware of this great Sin, this deadly Evil of spiritual Sleep. Let us not lie down, loving to slumber. For hereby a deep Sleep, ere we are aware, by insensible and increasig Degrees, will soon fall upon us. And if we thus fall asleep, the Lord in his Fatherly Displeasure, may justly as a Rebutke of our Negligence, withdraw the sweet Shines of his glorious Face from us, and give us up to a dark, and comfortless Frame of Spirit, and to a lifeless, fruitless Heart and Conversation.—But on the other Hand, when we find spiritual Drowsinesse begin to seize us; if we attempt our Duty in the Lord’s Strength, to stir up ourselves, and call upon our God, we shall find, that drawing nigh unto God, with our frequent Requests, He will draw nigh unto us with his quickning Grace. This is God’s usual Way of shewing Mercy to his People.—But if we should not instantly meet with the desir’d Mercy; yet let us follow hard after God in the Way of our Duty. For hereby our Father will be glorified. And if for a while, he should in a Way of Sovereignty, hide his Face from us; it will delight his Heart, to see us as his dear Children, frequent his Throne with our repeated Requests, for the renewed Blessings of our Father’s Love. And down he will pour them upon us in Abundance. If for a Season he delays the
the Answer of our Prayers, we may be assur'd, while we keep seeking of him, that we shall not seek Him in vain. That he is but preparing greater Mercy for us, and preparing us to receive it, at a Time when it shall be most for his Glory, and for our Advantage.

Go on then, my dear Brother, to seek the Lord for renewed Quicknings; and fear not. For tho' at Times you feel much Weakness and Deadness; there is in Christ for you, the Power of an endless Life. Because He lives, you shall live also. Believe afresh on the Son of God, for fresh Supplies of Life from his inexhaustible Fulness. He that believeth on Me, he faith, tho' he were dead, yet shall he live; and he that liveth and believeth in Me, shall never die. Believ'st thou this? Doth thou believe it, my Brother? If so; rejoice in your Portion; live upon your Portion; you can never spend it. There is Fulness enough in Christ, to supply you in all your Emptiness. And it is treasur'd up in Him, on Purpose for you. God your Father hath blessed you with all spiritual Blessings in the Heavenlies in Christ; with a rich Stock, an endless Store. Your dear Lord Jesus, who once in his boundless Love, descended into the Depths of your Misery, that in the Virtue of his Death, he might rise, and ascend far above all Heavens, to receive all Mercy, Life and Glory for you; will pour down all Blessings upon you, as the Fruit of his Life for you at God's Right Hand, of his Advocacy and Intercession with his and your Father. And lo, the Holy Ghost your Comforter, will abide with you for ever; and will take of the Things of Christ, and of the Father, and will shew them unto you; to your Light, Life, Joy and Peace in Believing. The Lord the Holy Ghost, sent from the Father
ther and the Son, did not take Possession of your Soul at first, and give you the new Adam's Life, to forfake you after a Time, and leave you to sink again into the old Adam's Death. No, my Brother, the Three-One God, the God of all Grace in Christ, is your God forever and ever; and is and will be the God of Love, the God of Life unto you. Ask therefore, and you shall receive, that your joy may be full. The Spirit will endite your Petitions; Christ will receive and present your Requests; and the Father thro' Him, will bless you with gracious Answers. Go with your empty Sacks, to your Brother Joseph's Stores. His Heart, his Fulness is open unto you. His Bowels will yearn upon you in your Necessity and Distress. He will not, he cannot hide Himself from his own Flesh. The Lord the Saviour, who for you received Gifts of the Father; from his own Interest with Him, and Heart-Love to you, will give them. Let all your Wants be upon Christ, as a Believer in Him, and as a Minister of his Gospel. And of his Fulness you shall receive, and Grace for Grace. Great Grace be with you and yours, and the dear Saints with you!—I am glad you pray for me and mine. I bear you and yours continually on my Heart before the Lord. In Him, dear Sir, I am,

Your most affectionate Friend,

LETTER
LETTER IV.

To Mrs. H—ys.

YOUR I receiv'd, and return hearty Thanks. I bless the Lord, that inclined you to send me a Line. It brought glad Tidings to my poor Soul, and came at a Time of Need. I had just been bewailing before the Lord, my Unfruitfulness, and in- treating him to let me hear that my last Book of Letters was made of some Use. And surely, while I was speaking, the Lord heard. Your Letter was brought to my Hand, and the Lord by it refreshed my Spirit, comforted my Heart, and encouraged me in his Work. I fell down before the Lord, and gave Him Thanks. I ador'd his infinite Mercy and Grace, in thus using the Chief of Sinners, for so much Good to your dear Soul. And also his glorious Faithfulness to his precious Promises given me, to use those Books you mentioned. And I pray'd for a Blessing upon you. — I rejoice in the great Things which the Lord hath done for your Soul; and wonder at the Grace, that made vile me, an Instrument of your Faith and Joy. To encourage you at first, to trust in the Lord for Life and Salvation, when under such a Sense of Sin, and deserved Wrath, that you thought there was no Hope for you; and to come as a perishing Sinner, at the Gospel-Call, to the open Arms of the mighty Saviour, casting yourself upon Him with an holy Venture, and firm Resolution, That if you perisht, it should be there.— Then, my dear Sister, by this Act of Faith, you ran into Christ as the City of Refuge. And there you are forever safe. — Oh what a rich Reward is this, is your
your Faith in Jesus, of my writing and publishing my first Book of Letters! For this we'll join, with all the Saints and Angels, to bless our God forever. — And hath the Lord made my publish'd Account of his gracious Dealings with me, so exceeding sweet unto you? Hath your Faith and Joy been confirmed and increased thereby; while as Face answers Face in a Glass, you have beheld therein, in the Lord's kind Dealings with me, his gracious Workings upon your own Soul? Then, all Glory to the God of all Grace! my Labour in that Service, hath not been in vain in the Lord.—And are you at Times so melted down with Love, in reading my last publish'd Book of Letters, that you can go no further? What shall I render to the Lord, for these his Benefits! That by any Thing wrote by unworthy me, He should shew you his Glory, increase your Faith and Joy, and shed abroad his Love in your Heart, by the Holy Ghost! —Oh who is like unto our God! There is none like Him. His Way of Mercy, is his own. His Grace, is like Himself. Infinite, free, superabounding, all-conquering, and endless. Oh, my dear Sifter, let us jointly fall down before the Majesty of Jehovah's Grace in Christ. Adoring that Love, we can never comprehend. Rejoicing in God our Saviour, and the Riches of his Glory, which are and shall be made known upon us, poor miserable Sinners, as Vessels of Mercy. Mercy suits us. Grace reigns. The Fountains of the "great Deep," of Jehovah's Love, are broken up through a crucified Jesus, and gloriously flow, over all the rising Mounts of our Sins. Here, as in a vast, boundless, bottomless, endless Ocean, let us delight ourselves daily. Here let us live, and swim, and dive continually. Till we by Grace, as capacious Vessels, all-enlarged, to the utmost of our Crea-
Creature-Capacity, are cast, for an eternal Enjoyment of God, into Him, the Ocean of Glory!—Be strong in the Grace that is in Christ, my dear Sister. Love Him, who first loved you. Go on to serve Him to the End of your Days. His Service is perfect Freedom, Fulness of Joy, durable Riches, and endless Glory! Oh how blessed are the Lord's Servants! None see their Glory, know their Happiness, taste their Bliss, but those blessed Souls, whom God's Free Grace, loves into this blest Employment, this glorious Enjoyment!—The Grace of Christ be with your Spirit! A Mother in Israel, may He make you! Pray for the least of Christ's, who loves you much in the Lamb's Bowels, and subscribes, my dear Sister,

Yours in our precious Jesus forever,

LETTER V.

To Mr. T——y.

My dear and honour'd Brother in Christ,

I don't forget you before the Lord, and trust you remember me, and that we fare the better for each others Prayers. But oh, Grace unknown! We are had in everlasting Remembrance before God, as borne continually upon the Heart of Christ, our great High Priest in Heaven. There our Names are curiously engraven, as God's fair Jewels, set in Gold in our Enclosings, fixt in Grace, and all-surrounded. Oh the excellent Honour that is put upon us, the in-
finite Favour that we find in the Father's Sight, as we are thus borne before Him on the Heart and Arm of the great Son of his Love, and our great and glorious High Priest above! And there, as so many bright Jewels, we stand in that Order in which infinite Wisdom hath plac'd us, according to our Birth, to our Birth-Place, and Work in the Body of Christ. And so, according to that Dignity which God's Free Grace hath put upon us, and for all needful Assistance for the Service allotted us. And as our Persons, so our Judgments, all our Concerns while on Earth, are borne before the Lord continually, by our ministring High Priest in Heaven. Who is able to save us to the uttermost, seeing he ever liveth, in the Virtue of his meritorious Death, and in the Interest of his great Person, to make Intercession for us. Hence, my Brother, all our spiritual Enjoyments, and Employments flow. Hence, All Things work together for our Good. For that great Good, of our Conformity to Christ in Grace, and to prepare us for a full Conformity unto Him in Glory, unto which of old we were predestinated.—The good Will of Him who dwelt in the Bush, be with you and yours, and all that love our Lord in Sincerity. Amen. With dear Love and Service, I am, dear Sir,

Your sincere Friend and Servant,
My very dear Sister,

YOUR kind Letter, signifying your Desire to see me at St——ly, I receiv'd and return most hearty Thanks for your tender Regard to unworthy me. But at present, my dear Sister, your Lord and mine, doth not see it best, to grant your Desire in that Respect. I han't Ability in Body for such a Journey. I know you love the Lamb that has bought you with his Blood. And will you not love him in This. And say, Unto Him be Glory and Dominion forever and ever. Amen!—— Suppose, my dear Sister, that your own Lord Jesus was now on Earth, and personally present with you, and told you, 'That my Coming to visit you at this Time, wou'd not be most for his Glory, nor for your Good.' Think you not, that thereupon you cou'd well bear to have your Request deny'd: If the Lord himself shou'd tell you, That it was He that deny'd what you desire; and gav you these Reasons for it? Yea, think you not, that thereupon, your Will, wou'd flow complacently into His? And that you would even chuse, what was most for your Lord's Glory, and for your Advantage, upon the Credit of his Word; altho' you might not at present see how the Denial of your Desire, wou'd most subserve these Ends? — And tho', my dear Sister, your Lord for you, now sits enthron'd in Heaven; yet you have as good Reason for your Submission to, and Acquiescence with his sovereign Dispose, in that He hath given you the same Assurance in his written Word,
as if He was present here on Earth, and you had it from his own Mouth. Believe it; his Word assures it: **God your Saviour reigns. The Lord hath prepared his Throne in the Heavens; and his Kingdom ruleth over all. Not a Sparrow falls to the Ground, without your Father.** The Thing that you desire then, shall not fall to the Ground, die and come to nothing without Him: For, in the Lord's Account, you are of more Value than many Sparrows.

Every Thing that concerns you, even the most minute, is under the supreme Dispose of God your Father, of God your Saviour, for wise and holy, good and gracious Ends. **The Lord hath made all Things (in Nature and Providence) for Himself: For his own Glory. And we know (faith the Apostle) that all Things work together for Good to them that love God, to them that are the Called according to his Purpose. And if all Things, then This, my dear Sister, this of his Denial, of your Desire in my Coming to St—by, is for your Lord's Glory, and your Good.** — See that you love and bless him for it. For most surely the Eye of Christ is upon you, to see how you will behave under this Trial. To see what you will think and say of Him, in this his Dealing with you; whether you will not think and say, 'He hath done all Things well. I'll adore, love and bless him in all, even in This.' — And let me say, It will glad Christ's heart, His joy will remain in you; He will account Himself glorify'd in you, if you thus behave as an obedient Child. And most surely, Your Joy will be full. — If you want Wisdom, my dear Sister, ask it of God; and it shall be liberally given you. I am persuaded, that there are Times wherein you mourn, that you have glorify'd Christ no more upon the Earth. Now you have an Opportunity put into your
your Hand, now He crosseth your Will, to glorify Him, by a humble, holy, cheerful Submission to, and Acquiescence with his good Pleasure. Pray for Grace to improve it; and you will have the Joy of it, both here and hereafter.——When the Lord crosseth the Desires of his People, and doth not answer their Requests, in giving them the Things (specifically) which they seek; He always gives them something better, in lieu thereof.——And if by his Denial of what you at present desire; He gives you more Grace, more Faith in Him, and Patience under his All-wise Dispose, and enables you to love and glorify Him more; and thereby prepares you for a brighter Crown of Glory: Will it not be better, far, far better, than to have had your Desire granted in the Want of These?——You will most surely bless God, when you come to Heaven, that I did not now come to St—ly. I beseech you begin that Work here on Earth: And your Lord will have Glory, and your Soul sweet Peace. Great Peace! For, Great Peace have they that love his Law: (The Will of his Providence, as well as the Will of his Precept) and nothing shall offend them!

You will easily, think, my dear Sister, how desirable the Mercy I wish for, must be to me.——But still the Lord my Father, is pleas’d to deny my Desire, and calls me to wait on, during his good Pleasure.——This gives me fresh Exercise. But most surely, my wife Refiner, well knows what Degree of Trial his Gold wants, to purge it from its Dross. I think my Father intends to learn me Obedience: To learn me, in whatsoever State I am, therewith to be content. I am ashamed of my Dulleys, and Ingratitude. Let the Lord do what he pleaseth with me; So He brings me to be a better Child, and more like
like Him. I think most surely, that I have not well learned, to live practically upon God as my All; and to be in all Things, with Meekness, Humility and Thankfulness, entirely at his Disposè. I think the Lord designs to bring me to This; and that this is the Voice of his present Dealings with me: Which for so great an End, I take most kindly. I sometimes think, I have liv'd for nothing; If I haven't learn'd to endure Affliction, and Trials of all Kinds, with a meek and lowly Heart, with a quiet Spirit, with a God-adoring, and in Him rejoicing Soul.¹ I bless his Name, that I feel his Power at Times, working me up in some good Measure unto such a Frame and Temper. But when his sweet Hand, withdraws from my Heart; I feel my own Weakness. But this is my Joy, That God my Father, who of old Foreknew me in his infinite Love and Grace, hath predestinated me to be conformed to the Image of his Son: And that all his Providences towards me, are wrought exactly according to the Counsel of his Will concerning me; and do and shall effectually subserv that great and glorious Design.

For yourself, my dear Sister, I sympathize with you in your late Affliction, and rejoice that it is mitigated. — Sister M——y's Death should put us in Mind of our own Remove, and excite us to live as bordering Inhabitants on another World. — Your Infirmities of Body which at present attend, and bring your own Dissolution in View, should excite your Joy in the Lord, and cause you to lift up your Head, as knowing that the Day of your Redemption (from all Sin and Sorrow) draweth nigh. — If any Fear attends you, my dear Sister, as to your Interest in Christ; attempt your Duty in the Lord's Strength, to look again by Faith as a perishing Sinner in your-
self, unto Christ the great Saviour, for all Life and Salvation: In Obedience to his sweet Command, Look unto Me, all ye Ends of the Earth: — And thereupon, instantly take your Lord at his Word, That you shall be saved in this your Looking. Since unto every such Looker, as a rich, a royal, an irreversible Grant from his Throne, He hath said, Be ye saved. — Oh, Set to your Seal, that herein, God the Saviour is true. Only Believe: For there shall be a Performance of what is thus told you from the Lord. — And then, Believing, Rejoice in Hope of the Glory of God. Of that approaching Glory which awaits you: When you shall see your Lord as He is, be completely like Him, and serve Him perfectly and incessantly, to a blest Eternity! Oh my Sister, are you a Child, an Heir of God! And will you not rejoice that you are almost at Age; that the Time draws near, when you shall have the full, and eternal Possession of this your great, your glorious Inheritance! — And fear not the Pains, the Sorrows of Death: Since the Curse of Death shall not light upon you. Since you shall not be hurt of the second Death. And as to the first Death, Jesus your Saviour, the Lord, your Life will be with you in it; and passing thro’ that dark Valley, you need not fear any Evil. What, Do you think, that Christ will leave you at last! Has He borne and carry’d you hitherto, as upon Eagles Wings, putting Himself between you and Danger; even ever since you was blest with the new Life, with the Life of Grace, until this Moment, when Grace approaches to the Life of Glory: And will He not, think you, bring you safe thro’ Death’s Water? Over Jordan, into Canaan’s Land? Surely you can’t have such a Thought of your own Lord Jesus, whose Compassions fail not! Whose Love and Power to save you, are infinite!
infinite! And whose Faithfulness to his Promise, I will never, never, never leave thee, nor forsake thee: is like the great Mountains! Yea, firmer than the lasting Hills! For the Mountains shall depart, and the Hills be removed: But his Kindness shall not depart from you, nor the Covenant of his Peace be removed, faith the Lord that hath Mercy on you! Oh, Come up from the Wilderness, even to the last Step of it, Leaning upon your Beloved! Repose your Soul in Christ’s Bosom: It is open for you; and a sweet, a safe Resting-place will you find it in all Troubles, until you reach the peaceful Shore of endless Glory with Him! — Great Grace be with you! Pray for me; I shall remember you. My kind Love to Brother M — w. May all Salvation-Blessings surround him! — Since I can’t come, a broken Cistern, that can hold no Water; See that you flee to Christ, that Fountain of living Waters! And your Soul shall know no Want. Put Christ for a Well, while passing thro’ Baca’s Vale; and with Life and Joy you shall be richly supply’d. — With hearty Thanks for all Favours, I subcribe myself, my dear Sister, in the Bowels of Christ,

Yours most Affectionately,

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LETTER VII.

To Mr. B — m.

Dear Sir,

It is well for you and I, that Jesus, our elder Brother, now appears in the Presence of God for us, of God even our Father, who loveth us. That God’s
God's First-born Son, his holy, his beloved Son, exalted at the Right Hand of the Majesty in the Heavens; is not ashamed to call us Brethren, who are so much unlike him on the Earth! How great is the Wonder, that He who is surrounded with Myriads of Angels and Archangels, and an innumerable Multitude of the Spirits of just Men made perfect, those bright Flames of Love to him, who incessantly warble out his Praises, should ever cast one kind Thought upon such dull, cold, Lifeless Pieces of Earth, as we sometimes feel ourselves to be! But our Lord loves us, loves us freely, loves us infinitely, notwithstanding all our Unloveliness and Ingratitude, and evil Requittings of Him, for all his manifested Kindness! And Love binds his Heart to us, and fixeth his kind Thoughts upon us. Lov'd of Him, freely, greatly, unchangeably and eternally, we shall be remembered by Him perpetually, in an Infinity of flowing Compassions, under all our Diseases, our Sicknesses, as our Griefs, our Miseries. From which by an infinite, an all-producing Resolve, He will save us unto renewed Health, Joy and Life here, and unto full and endless Glory with him hereafter. Save us thus He will, by Virtue of his Death for us on the Cross, and as a Fruit of his Life for us on the Throne. Never will the Lord our elder Brother, forget his junior Brethren, those Heirs with Him of the same glorious Inheritance; but plead all the Grace of the Father's Heart, in the eternal Settlement thereof upon us, and the infinite Merit of his own Death, to bring us to God, until the full Possession of our wondrous Lot is given us. The Love of Christ, that was strong enough to engage him to die for us when Enemies, as Sinners, as Ungodly; will never fail to-
wards us, because of that remaining Enmity, Sin and Ungodliness, which abides and works, to our Grief, in the corrupt, unregenerate Part of our Souls, and falsely at Times, produceth Backslidings in our Lives. The Love of Christ, will go on with its great Design: To save us from all Sin and Misery, unto all Grace and Glory, in and with him, unto Ages without End! He dy'd, He lives, that He might not be in Heaven alone. He pleads, He intercedes, in the Merit of his great Sacrifice, and in the Interest of his great Person, with his and our Father, whose Love to us is infinitely great, for the Accomplishment of this his great Design: To bring us all up to be with Him where He is, to behold his Glory, to be one in Him, and in the Father, as He and the Father are one, by Love-Union, and Glory-Communion: Unto our full Joy, and ineffable and endless Bliss!

Then, Brother, let us lift up our Heads in Faith, and with stretched-out Necks in Hope, let us look and long for the Glory of that Day. For, Who (or what) shall separate us from the Love of Christ? Shall Tribulation, or Distress, or Persecution, or Famine, or Nakedness, or Peril, or Sword? — Nay, in all these Things we are more than Conquerors thro' Him that loved us. And let us be persuaded, that neither Death, nor Life, nor Angels, nor Principalities, nor Powers, nor Things present, nor Things to come, nor Height, nor Depth, nor any other Creature, shall be able to separate us from the Love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. — Wishing rich Times of Refreshing from the Presence of the Lord: Who, Having loved his Own which are in the World, loveth them unto the End: With hearty Thanks for
for all Favours, I am, Dear Sir,
Your most Affectionate Friend and Servant
In our own dear LORD JESUS,

LETTER VIII.
To Mrs. R—ll.

My very dear Sister in Christ,

I am glad you have been enabled to follow the Lord in his glorious, tho' now despised, Ordinance of Baptism; and that your Soul was comforted and strengthened at that Time. And think it not strange that you have been tempted since, to doubt of your being a Child of God. For thus it far'd with our Lord, the dear Head of the Church. After he was baptized, Satan came to him with an If thou be the Son of God, &c. But Nothing the Devil found in Christ, no Unbelief to fasten this his Suggestion upon. Christ repell'd the Temptation, with that Perfection of Faith in God, and Love to him, with that Wisdom, Strength and Firmness, for the Honour of his Father, and the Good of his junior Brethren, which every Way became so great a Person, as God's only, his first-born Son, the glorious Head, and immovable Rock of the Church! And His Victory, is our Conquest. By Christ's suffering Himself to be tempted of the Devil, by his baffling the Power and Cunning of Satan, and commanding off the Tempter when he had finish'd the Temptation; all that are Christ's, in Him, mystically overcame the Gates of Hell. Hence also, the Captain of our Salvation,
vation, in that he Himself hath suffered, being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted. He hath an Ability of Sympathy, in that he Himself when thus a Sufferer, hath experienc’d the same, the Subtilty and Force of Temptation. And also an Ability of Authority, as a Victor over the Tempter, having overcome him for us, to overcome him in us. And in both Respects, He is well able to succour, to pity and help us. Let us therefore come boldly to the Throne of Grace, that we may obtain Mercy, and find Grace to help in Time of Need.

My dear Sister, I compassionate your Soul, in those Fears which attend you about your Interest in Jesus: ‘That you have still some secret Reserve, and don’t go wholly out of yourself, unto Christ for Life; as you are kept at such a Distance from him.’ Be of good Cheer: Your Beloved is yours, and you are His. Your Desire to go wholly out of Self, unto Christ; is your Soul’s going out wholly unto Him, by that Desire. And as to that Distance from Christ which you groan under, it only respects your Want of his manifestative Favour, unto a fullPersuasion of Interest, with the blessed Effects attending it: And this shall be remov’d in the Lord’s Time. You shall have as much Nearness to Christ, as your Soul desires: Let me ask you, Is there any Distance between Christ and you, as to Desire? Is not the Whole of Christ, and of his Salvation desirable to you? Is not Christ, Christ above all Things, All of Christ, in all his personal Glories, in all his Relations, in all his Offices, and in all his Performances, the All of your Desires? And is there any Part of his Salvation, that you can be content to be without? I know you will say, ‘Christ, All of Christ, is All Desires
Desires unto me. Give me Christ, the Whole of Christ, and of his Salvation; or I die! And if so, my dear Sister, your Soul goes wholly out to Christ, for all Salvation. And the Whole of Christ, and of his Salvation, is wholly yours. Yours by Right; and shall be yours by Enjoyment. Your Right of Interest, is full and durable: Nothing can be added to, nothing taken from that. And your Enjoyment of that Jesus, and of that Salvation in and by him, which Free Grace hath made yours, and secur'd to you, which is now begun, shall happily increase thro' Time, and be perfected in, and drawn out to a blest Eternity.

And if, my dear Sister, you would have increasing Nearness to Christ, as to Communion-Love; don't grieve the Comforter, by refusing to be comforted. Listen to, and credit the Testimony of the Holy Ghost, in those sweet Whispers of the Love of Christ, which He is pleas'd to give to your Heart at Times, by the Application of particular Promises. What, will you by your Unbelief, in turning a deaf Ear to the sweet Voice of your Lord's Love, obstruct that Communion with Him therein, which your Soul so much desires? Will you grieve the Holy Ghost your Comforter, and dishonour Him, who in his Witness of the Love of Christ to you thro' applied Promises, is the Truth; by giving Heed to the Father of Lies, who suggets to your Mind, 'That you have no 'Right to those Promises; because they come not 'with so much Power as you could wish?' Know, and be assured, That all the Promises of God, are Yea and Amen in Christ, unto every Soul that looks unto Him for Life. One and all the Promises are yours, forever yours, as a Looker unto Jesus. And the Holy Spirit as a Comforter, is given you from your
your own Lord Jesus, to apply to your Heart in your Times of Need, some of those many exceeding great and precious Promises, unto which you have an universal and indefeasible Right, for your Refreshment and Consolation. And can you doubt, when any particular Promise is apply'd to your Soul, whether that Promise belongs to you; when that and all the Promises are yours, as a Believer in the Son of God? And can you doubt, whether the Application of that Promise is from the Lord; when it suits your Case, strengthens your Faith, encourageth your Hope, and spreads abroad the Saviour and Sweetness of Christ, and of the Free Grace of God in Him, throughout your Heart, to your Soul's Refreshment and Joy? O my dear Sister, there is not a Promise brought to your Mind, that brings Christ and you, God and you together, if it be but for a Moment, but was from the Lord. And whether the Power that attends any Promise that comes into the Mind, be greater or less, and whether it abides for a longer or shorter Space; if the Effect produc'd thereby in the Heart, is the Increase of any Grace, to the strengthening of the Soul to cleave unto God in Christ; that Promise was certainly apply'd by, and undoubtedly from the Lord. For this is a sure Rule: 'That which comes from God, leads to Him.' Listen then, my dear Sister, to the still, small Voice of your Saviour's Love, when He doth but whisper as it were. Say, It is the Voice of my Beloved! Lay the Ear of Faith to his sweet Lips: They'll breathe Life, the Life of his Love, into your Soul instantly. Count not the Consolations of God small. Receive the Least with Thankfulness; and seek for the Greatest with Earnestness. So will you honour the Lord by Faith; and so will He honour you with increasing Communion with
with Him in Love.—Unto the tender Care of your
dear Lord, who loves you infinitely, and will satisfy
your Soul abundantly, I commit you; and in
Him with great Affection, I am, my dear Sister,

Yours forever,

LETTER IX.

To Mrs. H—ys.

My very dear Sister in our precious Lord,

I Rejoice to hear of your Soul's Prosperity, under
thofe Afflictions which have attended your Body.
I have again been visited with Illness, and am weak.
The Hand, the Heart of our own God, our God of
Love, is in every Thing to us. In all, let us love,
bless and adore his Name. For honourable and glo-
rious are all his Works; and most worthy is He of
Praise from us in all. It is Matter of my Joy in
God and Thanksgiving to him, that his Love is fed
abroad in your Heart by the Holy Ghost; that you are
favour'd with the Witness of the Blessed Spirit, That
you are a Child of God: And that under the sweet
enlarging Influence of God's Free Love, you love
Him again, and as much when He frowns, as when
He smiles. A believing, loving, adoring Spirit,
under Divine Chastisement, is an excellent Spirit; a
God-glorifying Frame of Soul. Our Afflictions, light
as they are, as the Curse is taken out of them, and
they made Blessings to us, as being laid upon us,
and we supported under them, by the Lord's All-
gracious and Almighty Hand; may well be borne

by
by us, not only as they are design'd for, and shall end in our Souls Advantage, present and eternal; but also, and chiefly, in that our God is, and will be glorified thereby. By his displaying the Glory of his infinite Love, Grace and Mercy, Wisdom, Power and Faithfulness, in his Fatherly Goodness towards us therein; and by our ascribing all Honour, in filial Duty unto Him. Our God, is infinitely concern'd for our Good in every Affliction; and let us be earnestly, yea, only concern'd about his Glory, as to our Duty therein: Casting all our Care upon Him, who careth for us. We shall bless God when we come to Heaven, for every Kind and Degree of Affliction, that we passed thro' on Earth; for every Trial, and for every Circumstance attending it, wherein we were enabled to glorify God, and whereby our Glory in Him was advanced. And after this heavenly Temper, and an Increase therein, let us labour, while Pilgrims on this Earth. A submissive, patient, cheerful, thankful Frame of Spirit, under the afflicting Hand of God; is that Honour, that Reverence which we owe to Him as a Father; and ineffably sweet, and exceeding profitable is this unto us as his Children. Now, now's the Time to glorify God in the Fires. If we lose any Opportunity for this now; it is gone forever. That Season, that Time of Affliction will come no more. Which should make us earnest for Grace, to improve every of our affliction Moments. Yet a little, little While, and Sin and Sorrow shall be no more. A Fulness, an Eternity of Joy and Glory, in the immediate Presence of God and the Lamb awaits us. Let us lift up our Heads in Faith, for the Day of our Redemption draweth nigh: And prize, and bless God for all our Time, for the Labour of Love. It is given us as a Fruit
Fruit of the Father's Grace, of the Son's Purchase and Intercession, and as a Season of the Spirit's preparing us below, for that Glory which is prepared for us above. O my dear Sister, All Things are ours: Whether Life, or Death, or Things present, or Things to come. Time with all its Changes, its Comforts and Crosses, and Eternity with all its great and unchangeable Glories are ours. Christ is ours, and all Things in and with Him: And we are His, and shall shortly be with Him where He is, to behold his Glory. We shall be like Him, perfectly so; for we shall see Him as He is. Our Lord is gone before us, is entered into Heaven itself, with his own Blood, to prepare a Place in his Father's House for us, and will come again and receive us to Himself, that where He is, we may be also. We shan't be long absent from, but shall shortly be forever with the Lord: To see, to love, to praise Him perfectly and eternally. O blessed Day! It hastens upon us. A Day without Clouds, without Decline, without End! A fair bright Day, that will spread its Glories over all: when the Lord shall be our everlasting Light, and our God our Glory! We may well wish for it, when favour'd with a Glimpse of its ineffable Brightness. And none are so favour'd, but those for whom this Glory-Day is prepared. None long for Vision of, and Likeness to the Lamb, but the Lamb's Bride; who by the Spirit of Grace are wrought for, and have received Him as an Earnest of that self-same Glory. And unto these, the Lord God and the Lamb, will be their Light, their Inheritance in Light, in the Light of Glory, to the Days of Eternity! Then, farewell Trials forever! Farewell Sin and Sorrow, Death and Darkness, Pain and Weakness: Mortality shall be swallowed of Life. And mean Time, my dear Sister,
Sister, let us go on in Faith and Hope of that eternal Life, which God that cannot lie, hath promised. And loving and adoring the Lord in all Things, let us follow the Lamb, even whithersoever He goeth, until we reach immortal Glory with him. — And now, my dear Child, unto the tender Care of your everlasting Father, I commit you. His Presence be with, and his Blessing upon you continually; that you may still increase with all the Increases of God! So prays, my dear Sister,

Yours most affectionately in the Bowels of Christ,

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LETTER X.

To Mr. F——r.

My dear Brother in Christ, our Life, our Love, our All.

You desire a Line from me. What shall I write? Methinks you want to hear of your Beloved. And if his Spirit, sent from the Father and the Son, will please to take of the Things of Christ, and show them unto you, by so weak, so unworthy a Worm; it will be to our mutual Joy, and the Lord shall have all the Glory. It is Grace unknown, my dear Brother, free, rich, superabounding Grace, that gave you a begun Acquaintance with Christ in Love, in that infinite Love which is in his Heart toward poor lost Sinners, who are enabled to look unto Him for all Salvation. What do you want, my Brother? If you say, I am all I ants. That is your Mercy. For unto Souls that see this, Christ is a Fountain of all Supplies. You can't want more,
more, than Christ has to give, is willing to bestow, and will enrich you with, in your every Time of Need. It hath pleased the Father that in Him should all Fulness dwell. All Fulness dwells in Christ, to supply us in all our Emptiness.—Do you see your Nakedness? Christ’s Name is, The Lord our Righteousness. Do you groan under your Unholiness of Heart and Life? Christ is made of God unto us, Sanctification. Representatively and Influentially: To present such defiled Worms as we, perfectly holy before God, in his own personal Purity now; and to maintain, increase and perfect that Purity of Heart which is begun in us by his Holy Spirit, until in our own Persons, we are perfectly conformed to the Image of Christ, our Holy Head. Doth your Folly, your Inability to know the Things of God in their Greatness and Glory, grieve you? Christ of God, is made unto us, Wisdom. It is his Office as our Prophet, to teach the most ignorant Souls that come to him. He will teach the meek his Way. It is his Joy to teach us; and his Teachings are efficacious. They will make all those wise unto Salvation, wise unto Perfection, that humbly wait upon him for the same. Doth your spiritual Poverty distress, and your spiritual Enemies afflict you? Christ is made of God unto us, Redemption. Our Redeemer is great and strong. His Redemption by Price and Power, is and shall be perfect. Your Redeemer hath paid all your Debts; He hath bought you, and your Inheritance. He hath brought you unto God, in Himself: He hath begun to bring you unto God by Himself, here in Grace; and He will shortly bring you unto God, to be with Him in Glory. Your Soul, your Body, from the Power of Sin and Satan, Death and Grave, shall be rescued by the Almighty
mighty Arm of your strong Redeemer, your Kinsman-
Redeemer, and your whole Person made perfect,
complete in Freedom, shall be taken by him into his
own Embraces: To enjoy the most intimate Com-
munion with Him and his Father, being fill’d with
the Spirit of both, in Love, Life and Glory, to a
blest Eternity! — And can your Heart conceive, my
dear Brother, the one Half, the Thousandth Part of
that Bliss, that vast Inheritance in God, of which by
Christ, as a Believer in him, you are now made an
Heir? And of which by Him, you shall shortly be
a Possessor? I tell you, Nay. Eye hath not seen,
nor Ear heard, neither hath entred into the Heart of
Man, in a mortal State, to conceive of those great
Things, according to their Greatness, which God
hath prepared for them that love him, to be enjoy’d
by them in immortal Glory. — Come then, my dear
Brother, come by Faith, and lie down in the Bosom
of Christ, in his Person and Fulness, as made yours
by infinite Love. For, this, this Jesus, is the Rest,
and this the refreshing wherewith the weary Soul may
rest. The Love of Christ to you, and your Interest
in Him, are unchangeable, amidst all the Changes of
your Frames. The good Work of God begun in
your Soul, shall be performed until the Day of
Christ. Abide in Him by Faith; and cleave unto
him by Love. In every Path of Duty, follow on to
know the Lord; and you shall know him: To your
full and endless Joy and Glory. The Grace of Christ
be with your Spirit! In Him, my dear Brother, I am

Yours very affectionately,

L E T-
LETTER XI.

To Mrs. S——b.

Dear Mrs. S——b,

I hear that you are still under Distress of Mind; and I compassionate your Soul under your present Concern. Be of good Cheer: Jesus Christ came into the World to save Sinners, even the very Chief. You are not yet in Hell, sent down to the Pit among those that are past Hope. You are yet within the Sound of Mercy, within the Reach of Mercy, and there is yet a who can tell but God may be gracious unto you? And it is God’s Way, to shew those Souls their Misery, that He designs Mercy for; that so they may seek it at his Throne, and that Mercy, in which God delighteth, may be exceeding welcome to them. And if you see yourself to be a miserable Sinner; have you not Reason to hope, that the Lord designs to be unto you a merciful Saviour. God the Father, can shew no Mercy to Sinners out of his Son. Out of Christ, God is a consuming Fire; and Sinners, before his strict Justice and flaming Wrath, are but as dry Stubble. But in Christ, through the bleeding Lamb, given to bear Sin, and to die for Sinners, God can be gracious, and that in a Way of Righteousness. Mercy and Truth, here meet together, and Righteousness and Peace, in the Salvation of a Sinner, kis and embrace each other. God’s Heart was so full of Love to loft Sinners, that he freely gave his Son, to take our Nature, to obey, and die in our Room and Stead; that he might shew Mercy unto us, in our perishing State, without Injury to his Holiness, Truth and Justice: Yea, with Honour to all
all his infinite Perfections. In the Salvation of Sinners by Jesus Christ, God is more glorified, than in the Damnation of those that perish; and than he was by perfect Adam, or would have been, if Man had never sinned. And as it hath pleased God, in his infinite Wisdom and Grace, to contrive and provide this great Way of Salvation for fallen Man, from that great and endless Misery which he had brought upon himself by Sin, in which God as the Father of Mercies, is to the utmost glorified, and perishing Sinners to the utmost saved; so likewise, by the glorious Gospel, He hath made a Revelation of this Way of Life which is above to the Wife, that we may depart from Hell beneath. God hath given his sacrificed Son, to be a Light unto us Gentiles, that Christ might be his Salvation unto the Ends of the Earth. God so loved the World, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting Life, John 3. 16.

Now then, my dear Friend, tho' you are in a perishing State, just ready to perish in your own Apprehension, tho' you fear sinking into eternal Death; yet if you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, you shall be saved, you shall not perish, but have everlasting Life. And this Believing, is set forth unto us divers Ways in the Scriptures. As by looking unto Jesus, Heb. 12. 2. Coming unto him, John 6. 37. Trusting in his Name, Matt. 12. 21. Fleeing unto him for Refuge, Heb. 6. 18, &c. And if you can experience any one of these Acts of Faith, or any other mentioned in the Book of God; you then, as a Believer in Christ, have God's Word for it, yea, his Oath, That you shall not perish, but have everlasting Life: Do you see yourself by Sin,
to be in a miserable, helpless, perishing Condition? Do you believe that Christ is able to save you? Do you see his All-sufficiency to save? Is Christ and his Salvation, in all its Parts, to be saved from Sin, as well as Wrath, unto Holiness, as well as Glory, desirable to you? And as this mighty Saviour is lifted up in the Gospel, to be beheld by the chief of Sinners; Do you look unto Him for all Salvation? If so; God the Saviour, who says, Look unto Me, all the Ends of the Earth; gives you the free Promise, the irreversible Grant of Salvation, in this your Looking: While unto every Soul that thus looks to him, He faith, Be ye saved, Isa. 45. 22. Perhaps you may experience this Act of Faith, if not others. And this, even this, is a saving Act of Faith, or such an Act of Faith, unto which the everlasting Salvation of the Soul is inseperably joined. Oh, if as a perishing Sinner, you cast up your Eye to Christ, as able to save you to the uttermost, with a who can tell but this mighty Saviour will save me? I will look no where else for Salvation. You shall never perish, but have everlasting Life. In Faith and Hope then, Look, my dear Friend, look repeatedly unto Christ for Life. It is the Father's Will, it is the Son's Command, and the Spirit's Invitation in the blessed Gospel, that you should look unto Jesus. And lo, If all the Life that is in Christ, is able to save you in this your looking; you shall not Sink into Death. You shall not be hurt of the second Death. And as to the Death of the Body, which to all out of Christ, is the first Death, when that comes to you, it shall not come as a Curse, but as a Blessing; as an Outlet from all Sin and Sorrow, and an Inlet unto all Joy and Glory. My Hearts Desire
Desire and Prayer to God for you is, that you may be saved. That your Soul may be filled with all Joy and Peace in Believing; and that your afflicted Body may be restored unto former Health, and you spared to serve Christ in your Generation, if it be the Will of God. But however, my dear Friend, the Lord deals with you as to the Life of your Body, if he brings you by this Affliction, to look to Christ for Salvation, you will have Cause to bless him for this, and to adore his Grace forever. And the Lord who saves your Soul, will save your Body too, from its threatened Dissolution, if He sees it best for you. And if not, if the Time draws near, that your Spirit is to be loved home into the Bosom of Christ; your Body to be laid a-while in the dusty, ve, prepared as a perfumed Bed, by your Lord’s lying there for you: Be of good Cheer. For to be with Christ, is far better. Death, to your Spirit, as it will bring you to see your Jesus as he is, will be your unspeakable Gain. And soon your sleeping Dust, raised by your Saviour’s Hand, shall be fashion’d like unto his glorious Body, and your whole Person, with all the Saints and Angels, in Bliss unknown, shall be forever with the Lord! May He comfort your dear Soul with these Words! So prays,

Your most affectionate Friend,

LETTER
LETTER XII.

To Mrs. H—ys.

My very dear Sister in our most precious Jesus,

I heartily thank you for your last kind Letter. I have just now been reading it with Tears of Joy, that my last Letter-book was blest to you and others. Oh! if my Lord gets any Glory, and his tender Lambs any Advantage, by any Thing I write or publish; I live, my Joy is full. My Postscript's also, being blest to you, rejoic'd my Heart, and excited my Praise to God. Most surely, the Lord makes your Letters of special Use to me, to strengthen my Hands in his Work. As the Glory of God and the Good of Souls are only aim'd at by me, in what I write and publish; so when I hear that these Ends are accomplish'd, it is unto me like Life from the Dead. For, to discourage my Heart, and weaken my Hands, the Enemy frequently, and almost continually, opposeth me in every Thing I set about, suggesting, 'That it will be of no Use.' But, Glory to my Lord! His Grace, crowns my weak Endeavours, and I find Satan a Liar. O, Not unto me, not unto me, but to the God of all Grace, be all the Glory; who is thus gracious to the chief of Sinners! My kind Lord, for some Time, hath help'd me much against that Temptation, 'That what I did wouldn'd be of no Use:' By humbling me in the Dust, under a Sense of my own Vileness, and Unworthiness to be employ'd in the least Service for him; and by making me willing to take my own Place, as the least and laft of all as to Usefulness; and also by drawing out my Desires to work for him as hard as ever, and to cast all my
my little Mites of Service at his Royal Feet, in Love and Duty, submitting them to his sovereign Pleasure, to be us’d as He pleas’d for his Glory. And if he should cast them away, I had the sweet Pleasure to think, that my Lord would be glorify’d, in my aiming to do a little for him, and referring what I did to his sovereign Dispose. And that this, of my willing Working for Christ, altho’ it should not be crown’d with desir’d Usefulness; would be a Kind of Glory, that but few of his People brought to him. Inasmuch as in the exceeding Riches of his Grace, he frequently blesseth his Servants Labours with Success. Hence, when I have been told, ‘That this or that which I did would be of no use, I might as well leave it undone:’ I have reply’d, ‘It is for my Lord’s Feet: I’ll do it for his Honour, and submit it to his Pleasure, to glorify himself thereby, as in infinite Wisdom and Grace, he sees meet!’ And thus I have got the Victory over the Temptation. And frequently, by one sweet Word or other, dropt from my dear Lord’s Mouth, he allures me to, and strengthens me in my poor Attempts to serve him. And you will easily think, that it is Grace unknown, if he use any Part of my poor Work, which has been cast at his Feet, to be us’d, or not, as He pleased; and that my Joy herein, must needs be full. And thus it was as to my two last Books; for thus the Lord wrought on my Heart, while I was seeking a Blessing on their Publication. And as afterward he gave me some Encouragement that he would use them; I see both his Grace and Faithfulness herein.

I thought I should meet with Opposition as to the Postscript; as the Lord said unto me, I have made thee an iron Pillar, and brazen Walls,—And they shall fight against thee, but they shall not