

x 3. John Thompson Bell, aged 22 years.

Previous to his illness he gave no indication of ^{spiritual} life; for, the animal directed, his mind was so fixed on earthly pursuits, that it produced a degree of hardness of heart and feeling not often found in one so young. All his affections were enlisted in the acquisition of money, ^{for} after which he panted with fearful eagerness. In this state he continued for a considerable time after he was confined to the house, and even long after it was apparent that he would no get better. So hard were his feelings that it was painful to visit him, and so severe was the conflict on his mind when he saw that death would soon put an end to all his schemes, that it was truly distressing. The mental struggle and his fond clinging to life, racked and tortured his soul. Many times have I left the room

with the most painful feelings, and had I not been con-
vinced, that the word of reconciliation can soften
the most obdurate heart, I should have despaired. For
myself and present were my prayers, that the Lord
would open the eyes of this young man. Still no signs
of spiritual life appeared; only conversations with
him, the reading of the scriptures and Hymns, seem-
ed to take off on a sock. At length the green of God
triumphed, and this unhappy state gave way to sen-
timents and feelings of a different kind.

The first symptoms of a sounder state of mind
appeared some months ago. He became in humble
inquiries and listened to the instructions, even him
in spiritual things; and the silent tears, rolling down
his cheeks, proved that a dawning of light was spring-
ing up in his soul. His friends observed the
change with pleasure; but I thought it most
prudent to take no notice of it, lest his attention
should be diverted from the great object of his
faith and absorbed in himself and his feelings.
He now loved the Lord Jesus; he loved to hear
of His sacrifice and death. His confessions showed
much humility and a hope of happiness, ground-
ed on the atonement of Christ.

One day, about a fortnight after this change
had taken place, when he was more communi-
cative than he had been before, I ventured to
remark, that he had different thoughts and

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feeling, now from what he had had a few
weeks before ago, he assented, expressing his
thankfulness that this was the case. To my
question, "When did you begin to think more
seriously on these things, and what led you to it?"
he replied; "Do you remember the evening
when you and my ^{uncle} were here, and conversing
about the love of Jesus, our Saviour, in giving His
life a ransom for sinners, suffering and dying on
the cross for our sins, and of His mercy in saving
all who come to Him ⁱⁿ faith? That conversa-
tion I could not forget, and for three hours after
I went to bed I was ^{at} thinking about it. I prayed
for grace to believe, I prayed for pardon and
I felt a hope that I should not be lost, that Jesus
would save me. Since then my mind has at
times been very comfortable, when I think of
my Saviour and pray to Him."

From that day the operations of the Holy
Spirit on his heart became more evident, and
showed their blessed effects by a complete renunciation
of himself to the Lord, and submission to His will;
and by being delivered from the fear of death, and
bearing his sorrows and suffering with exemplary pa-
tience, often saying, "In the Lord's will, let Him
do with me what He pleases." He was entirely
freed from any reasons of gloom or darkness
of mind, and to the last ^{continued} in a tranquil

and peaceful state. He had buried his hopes on
 the Rock of ages, and in a childlike manner fixed
 his mind on the suffering of the Lamb of God. In
 consequence of this, tho' his frame and feeling varied,
 he was kept in perfect peace. Light broke up,
 when racked with most excruciating pains of body,
 his soul was graciously supported by inward consol-
 ations. Peace beamed in his countenance, and
 joy flowed in his expressions. "Don't weep for me"
 were admonishing those present he said, "Don't weep
 for me; it will soon be all over. my Saviour is
 near; He will not leave me." Subsequently
 his pains were partially relieved, when he never
 failed to impress the importance of eternal things
 on all who visited him.

On Sunday August 12th he was, ~~he was~~ agree-
 ably to his recent desire, acknowledged a member
 of our Church, and commended to the sympathy
 and prayers of the cong^y. and in the evening
 the H. Communion was administered to him
 and his parents, in the presence of the other mem-
 bers of the family and ~~some~~ a few friends. Dur-
 ing this solemn act the peace of God was power-
 fully felt by all present, and he himself testified
 by his looks ^{the} his heavenly joy that ~~it~~ ^{it} filled his
 soul. When the service was over he exclaimed,
 "This has been a blessed meeting: nothing but

heaven can exceed this." His bodily sufferings were forgotten, and the happiness of his soul seemed almost too great for his weak frame to sustain. The day after, speaking to one of his sisters of his enjoyment, he was unable to express himself in language sufficiently strong, saying, "O what a mounting that was! If you had felt as I did, you would never forget it."

The last week of his life was one of very severe suffering, but of inward peace. In the midst of his suffering he frequently exclaimed; "glory, glory be to God! I shall soon be with Him. I am going; my Saviour will soon come to fetch me home. I shall soon be with Him in Heaven, there I shall see Him face to face. I shall be near Him and shall see the wound. He loves ^{me} my sins." At one of my last visits to him, when he appeared very near his end, he said, turning his face to me, "You will soon have to preach my funeral sermon. I wish the young people may take warning by me, and be led to give themselves to the Lord."

The Saturday before he died, he was much exhausted by pain, and could say very little, but seemed to receive comfort from the words addressed to him. When about to leave him he expressed himself to say something, the substance of which was, that he enjoyed sweet comfort and peace by feeling our Saviour's presence, and in meditating on His sufferings. He said, "O how I long to go and see the tomb of God, who died for me!" On the King's hands with him he said with a smile, "All will be well at last." He departed the following day.