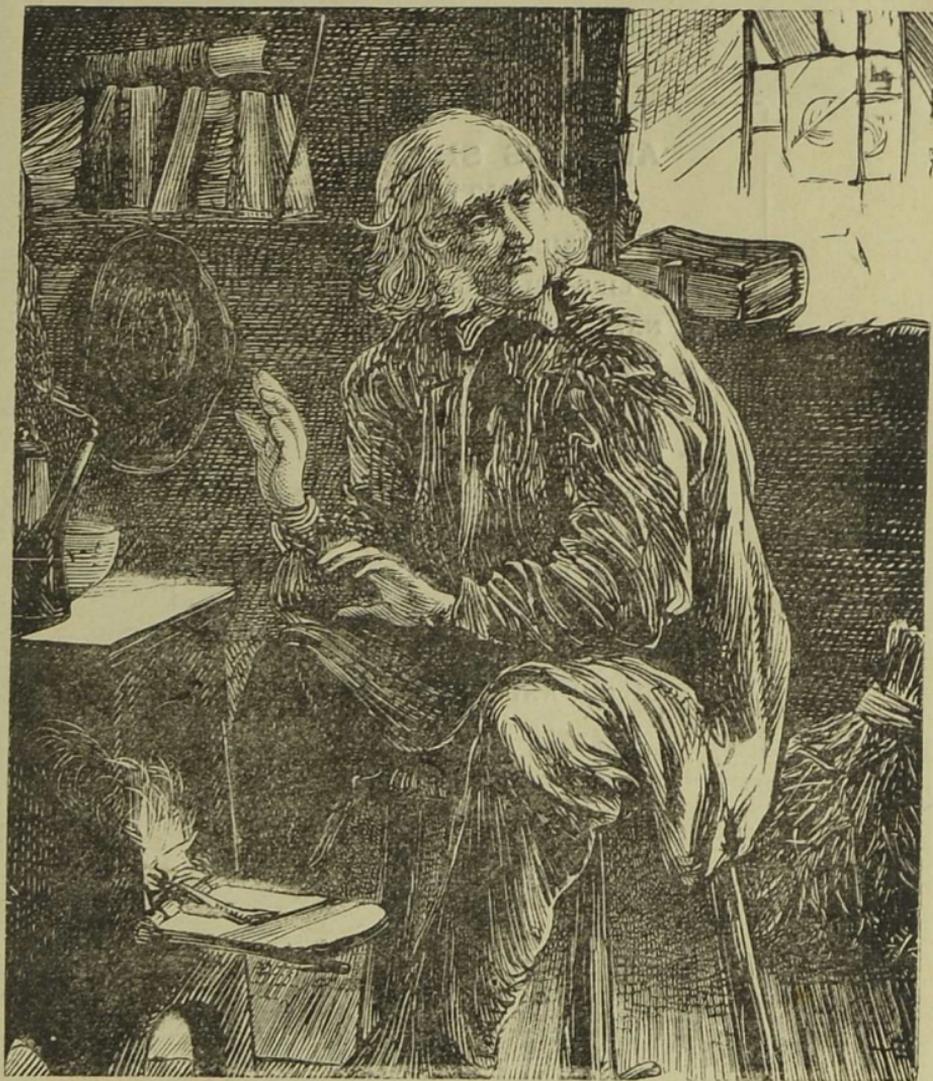


RECEIVED, OR REJECTED?

BY GEORGE BREALEY.



ARROWS SHOT AT A
VENTURE.

1. THE BRIDGE OF LOVE.
2. A LIFE-BELT FOR SINKING SOULS.
3. NANNY AND HER BURDEN.
4. "MIGHTY TO SAVE."
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7. TAKEN AT HIS WORD.
8. THE CHRISTMAS DINNER.
9. "THE DOOR IS OPEN, DONALD."
10. OLD MAGGIE'S THREE TEXTS.
11. REJECTING SALVATION.
12. GIVING AND TAKING.

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Received or Rejected.



WHEN preaching the gospel in a small town, I called on several persons who had been awakened during the services. Among those I visited was an aged man, who was very deaf; I had, therefore, to shout with a loud voice into his ear to make him

understand what I had to tell him ; and I had to repeat the words slowly, in short sentences, and single words, a slow process which took some time, but which was blessed of God to the conversion of his soul.

But under the same roof lived another man of notoriously wicked habits—a drunkard and blasphemer, whose mouth was full of cursing and bitterness. He had heard the message of salvation which I delivered to his neighbour ; and as I was leaving I heard the door of the room

of this wicked man shut with a bang, and the bolt inside drawn across, as, with an oath, he said, "*You* won't come in *here* with your preaching."

I knocked at the door and waited for a few moments, and then knocked again.

"I don't want you nor your preaching," the man replied.

"I have a message for you from God."

"I tell you I won't hear it, nor you either," he answered.

I repeated some words of love through the hole in the door, and left him. The

next day I called again, but only to find him still more hardened and abusive than before; he seemed to have fully yielded himself up to Satan, and to be possessed with a legion of devils. I felt a solemn awe come over me, and was impelled to repeat the words, "His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins. He shall die without instruction." (Prov. v. 22, 23.)

A few days afterwards his wife was taken suddenly, dying as she had lived.

The man came home at night, as he usually did, *drunk*; and so the next night, and the following. And the day after, when the remains of the poor wife were laid in the cemetery, he reeled to his miserable home at midnight, drunk as usual, and with his pipe in his mouth lay down on the bed, and slept *his last sleep*; for the fire from the pipe ignited the bed-clothes, and he was burned to a cinder. The poor deaf man was rescued by some neighbours, and taken to a place of safety.

Dear reader, the above solemn incident is one out of many that I have witnessed ; and I would ask you, " Are you, like that man, a rejecter of the Word of life, and in so doing rejecting your own salvation ?" Perhaps you say, " No, I do not reject the Word of God ; I pay great respect to it ; I read it, and do my best to obey its precepts."

Are you saved ? Has the Word become to you the incorruptible word, which has given you, through receiving it in faith, eternal life ? Do you know for yourself

the unspeakable blessing of pardon and peace with God? Have you passed from death unto life? Have you yielded your heart to God, and is your life now a life of faith on the Son of God? Are you looking for the return of that Saviour from heaven to gather to Himself *you*, with all who love His appearing? Blessed is it for you, dear reader, if this be so. But, oh, let it be a reality with you! for there is much sham religion in this day, much of professed receiving the truth without the giving back to God the whole

being as *His* redeemed, by the precious blood of Christ. It is not forgiveness of sins merely that Jesus died to bestow upon us, but *deliverance* from them; and not merely deliverance in title, but in reality.

I well remember, some years since, a man who was a very attentive listener at our gospel services; and at one time I had great hope of him. He said he believed the Scriptures, and believed Jesus had died for his sins. But he did not

give up his sins; he continued in them; **and** when I spoke to him about his life and evil ways, he said, "I believe in the Saviour; but if I cannot be saved without giving up my sin, I will not be saved."

This was a bold saying for a sinner to make, was it not? I was shocked above measure at his wickedness, and many a time did I talk with him and reason with him out of the Scriptures, showing him what the end would be of those who clung to their sins; but he refused instruction, and would none of God's reproofs.

My last visit to him was a most solemn one. I said, "Mr. —, are you determined to abide by your foolish and sinful purpose, and not give up your sinful life?"

"I have told you before," he said, "many times; my mind is made up; I will not give up my way of life."

"And this is your deliberate choice?"

"Yes," he replied, "it is."

I took my Bible and read Prov. xxix. 1: "He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be de-

stroyed, and that without remedy." I added, "I believe this Scripture will be fulfilled in your case, and that you will die suddenly." And I felt he was left to his evil way, to reap what he had sown. And so it happened; for a very short time afterwards he was found dead in his bed.

"Thou shalt call His name Jesus: for He shall save *His* people FROM THEIR SINS." This is a day of latitudinarianism. Men make light of the *cross* of Christ,

because they make light of *sin*; and they bring the character—justice and law—of God down to the level of their own thoughts, and set up a human standard against the divine standard, of which the death of the Son of God is the full exponent. If we would learn the nature of sin, let us look at the Son of God made a curse for us, and enduring the wrath of divine holiness, and forsaken of God.

Dear reader, are you making *light* of *sin*, while, perhaps, you keep up a respectable profession of religion, and have

your name enrolled as a church member? Has there been that unveiling of self in the light of the presence of God, which has made you cry out, as *all* truly God-enlightened ones have cried, "Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of *unclean* lips . . . mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts"? (Isa. vi. 5.) "I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye *seeth* Thee. Wherefore I *abhor myself*." (Job xlii. 5, 6.)

Perhaps the reader is really desirous of living fully for the Lord, but finds many

hindrances to his doing so. What is the remedy for this? First, be assured you *have* come as a lost and guilty one to Christ for salvation, and that you have taken Him at His word; then seek to understand what you have received from Him—*pardon*, peace, *life* eternal, with glory in the future; then take joyfully the place of separation with Him. “If any man will come *after* Me, let him deny *himself*, and take up his cross, and *follow* Me.”