

measure, preserved from relapsing into the spirit of the world. During this period of seclusion, it was, that the suggestion first entered his mind, that a dispensation of the gospel ministry would be communicated to his trust.

This suggestion was however, in a short time banished, and another trial of his steadfastness succeeded. With some young men in the neighborhood, possessing a literary taste and fascinating manners, he formed an intimate acquaintance, and not at first perceiving that under an inspiring exterior, there were concealed libertine principles, the fruitful source of licentious morals, his mind, by insensible degrees, became alienated

from the love of retirement, and he was led gradually into the vortex of a very corrupting and dangerous association, in which he continued for several years, although he was mercifully preserved from the grosser vices, and on that account, ventured to consider himself as standing on safe grounds, yet the Keeper of Israel who slumbers not, nor sleeps, did not permit him to remain at ease in this state of false security; In seasons of retirement, and in the solitary hour, the witness for God in the soul, that teacher that cannot be removed into a corner, would break in upon every false rest. - Often was the day which had been spent in unprofitable