

BROWNLOW NORTH:

THE STORY

OF

HIS LIFE AND WORK.

BY THE REV.

KENNETH MOODY-STUART, MA.,

MOFFAT.

POPULAR EDITION.

London:

HODDER AND STOUGHTON,
27, PATERNOSTER ROW.

MDCCCLXXIX.

VII.

BROWNLOW NORTH'S PORTFOLIO.

LETTERS FROM MR. NORTH TO ANXIOUS INQUIRERS, YOUNG CONVERTS, AND PERSONAL FRIENDS.

“O friend beloved, whose curious skill
Keeps bright the last year's leaves and flowers,
With warm, glad summer thoughts to fill
The cold, dark winter hours;
Pressed on thy heart, the leaves I bring
May well defy the wintry cold,
Until in heaven's eternal spring
Life's fairer ones unfold.”

WHITTIER.

MR. NORTH seldom if ever wrote even a short note without mentioning the name of the Master whom he served and loved, and referring to the progress of His work or the teaching of His word. The abundance of the heart sought utterance in his most familiar intercourse with his friends, whether by speech or pen. We have found it, however, difficult to procure letters written wholly upon religious topics, as these were generally directed to strangers, and sometimes in distinct letters the same line of thought is followed. We hope that those contained in this chapter may prove as useful to others as to those to whom they were originally addressed. The first letters are addressed to Miss O—, Edinburgh, extracts from whose letters to Mr. North were given in chapter vi.

LETTER TO A YOUNG DISCIPLE.

“NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, *Thursday, May 13th, 1858.*

“Your last letter has been forwarded to me to this place, and I received it and your former one with much pleasure. May you seek and obtain strength from the Lord Jesus Christ to perform the covenant you have entered into; for remember His own words, ‘Without me ye can do nothing;’ and let your present feelings and confidences be what they may, be sure of this, that unless you abide in Him, and His words abide in you, you will perish at the last, like the stony-ground hearers, who, when tribulation ariseth for the word's sake, are offended, and fall away. I write not these things to trouble you, but as my beloved child I warn you; for you have a terrible conflict before you, and have need of the whole armour of God on the right hand and the left. Your enemies are *exactly* described, and not one jot or tittle exaggerated, in Eph. vi. 12; therefore, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ, buckle on what God has provided for you; and *never* counting yourself to have attained, but ever coveting earnestly more and more of Christ's true riches, that you may lavish them as fast as you receive them on those who have need, go boldly forward, strong in the Lord and in the power of His

might, looking unto Jesus, who, for the joy set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame. Remember, *looking unto Jesus* is the great safety. Perpetually endeavour to realize His real personal presence and existence, and then what this real Person has done and suffered for you, and so you will catch something of His Spirit, and will be willing to do or suffer for Him. Do not take your Christianity from the example of those around you, however excellent they may be, but study the life of Jesus, how He acted and how He spoke, and strive to speak and act as He did. Above all, be constant in private prayer. Beware of the first beginnings of shortening private prayer. Be you hot, cold, or lukewarm, still pray; and going as you are to God, ask Him for *Christ's sake* to make you what you should be. May the Lord make you a burning and shining light, remembering that humility is the first of the Christian graces, and may He give you to win many souls by your chaste conversation and meek and quiet spirit (Seer Peter iii. 3, 4.) I have written more than I intended when I commenced. May God bless it to you. And ever remember there is *no truth in us, in our hearts*; that the *only truth is* in the *Word of God*. He that trusteth in his heart is a fool, but he that believeth in the Lord Jesus Christ *shall be saved*, saved not only from the punishment of sin, but from the power of it. So when your heart says one thing, and the Lord another, believe Him whom you have now, in the presence of God, of men, of angels, of devils, taken for better, for worse, to love, honour, and obey, as your Lord and your God."

A letter written on the same day in very similar terms to another young convert was found long afterwards, after her death, by her husband, bearing marks of constant perusal.

TO THE SAME.

"DUNDEE, Nov. 12th, 1859.

"MY DEAR MISS O—, Your letter, dated the 28th September, has been a great deal too long unanswered. Again and again have I meant to write; but if you knew how I require rest, and shrink both from writing and speaking more than is absolutely necessary, I am sure you would pardon me. I read your letter with great pleasure, for though I am not able to answer nearly all I get, yet I am very glad to hear how those I am interested in are going on, and your letter was very encouraging to me. May the Lord bless you and keep you, and make you an honoured instrument in His hands to bring Him much glory; but remember that you must let *nothing* lead you to neglect your own soul. Private prayer and private reading are absolutely necessary for spiritual health and life, and it is in the closet that we must seek for the Holy Spirit to tell us that in the ear which we may after proclaim to the benefit of our fellow-sinners. Give my Christian love to your dear sister, and tell her that I can say with John, that I have no greater pleasure than to

hear that my children walk in the truth. May the Lord minister bread to both your souls, multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness. Now is the time to be always abounding in the work of the Lord—in *due time* we shall reap, *if we faint not*. I trust A. B. is well, soul and body. Give her my Christian regards, and tell her to be watchful against the *pride* and naughtiness of her heart. How much need the very best of us have of this caution, lest we should think ourselves somebody when we are *nothing!* I am delighted to hear what you tell me about Miss C—. I saw her for a minute the last time I was in Edinburgh, and was much pleased. May the Lord Jesus, that good Shepherd, watch over us all. Be sure and pray for me, and always expect to do me good. I hope to be in Edinburgh for a few days before going to London, where I expect to preach about the 18th of December. Believe me, with much interest in you and your sister,

“Yours in the very best of bonds,

“BROWNLOW NORTH.”

The next letter is from Mr. North, in reply to a gentleman who was troubled with rationalistic difficulties, and was apparently rejecting the gospel on their account. In his letter he had stated two difficulties, the first relating to the Divinity of the Lord Jesus, and the second as to the equitableness of God’s having attached a penalty to man’s fall, seeing that fall was fore-known by Him, and therefore fore-ordained. Mr. North very wisely deals with his correspondent’s conscience as well as intellect.

LETTER TO A RATIONALISTIC OBJECTOR.

“*March 24th, 1859.*”

“SIR,—You may easily imagine I have little time for letter-writing. I return your letter, that you may, by having it by you, better understand my answer. Until you are willing to condescend and humble yourself to *every one* who is likely to be better instructed than yourself in divine things, you cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven.¹ Secondly, *man is not to ask, but believe*. The natural man has *no reason* that can help him, no spiritual discernment. Read (first going on your knees, and asking in Christ’s name for God’s Spirit to lead you) the first three chapters of 1st Corinthians, beginning at the eighteenth verse of the first chapter; read two or three times carefully, and may you be taught to cease from your own wisdom, and to seek the ‘Spirit which is of God, that you may know the things which are freely given to you of God’ (ii. 1. 2). *It is written*, ‘The just shall live by

¹ His correspondent had said it was only from a few in this world that one could *condescend* to ask instruction.

faith;’ and, God helping me, I have made up my mind to stand or fall with Jesus Christ. If He is the *truth*, I am saved; if He is the truth, the man who leans to his own understanding is *damned!* Awful position! No safety except Christ. Christ tells me in the fifth of John, verses 19, 23, that whatsoever things the Father doeth, the same doeth the Son, that all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father.’ *I do so*; therefore, if I do wrong, I plead His own word; I can’t do more. The Bible is full of that which can only be received by faith. I never try to reconcile. It is certain damnation if we refuse to receive what we cannot reconcile. See the irreconcilable yet heavenly thing, ‘And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but He that came down from heaven even the Son of man which is in heaven’ (John iii. 12, 13). Your second question I answer as Paul did the blasphemer’s in Romans ix. 18, 19, *Because God chose it*, and it will not lessen the agony of the penalty, that through the countless ages of eternity you continue asking, why? why? Let it be sufficient for you,—*It is so*. Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right? and though the answer to your question is not revealed, it is revealed that if you will *do His will*, you shall know of the doctrine, whether Christ spoke of Himself, or whether it be of God. Crucify therefore your own pride and carnal inclinations, as one who feels eternity to be at stake. I would wrestle with you in the name of Jesus for the Holy Spirit to lead you. Diligently shape your life as He directs you. May He bless you! I send you the 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th verses of the third of Proverbs: ‘Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.’ Take the counsel there contained, and the promise in the last verse *shall be fulfilled in you*.

“Yours with much interest,

“BROWNLOW NORTH.”

TO ONE WHO HAD BENEFITED BY HIS PREACHING.

“STRATHLEVEN, DUMBARTON, *Dec. 30th, 1858.*

“MY DEAR FRIEND,—I must send you a line to say how heartily I congratulate you on the news you are able to give me about A—. May the Lord bless him and keep him, and He most surely will if he will only believe God’s word, and not his own lying heart and feelings. Nothing can prevent God’s doing the mightiest of works in and for every poor sinner that goes to Him, but unbelief. You pray, and the answer too often is, ‘I can do no mighty work because of your unbelief.’ The command is, ‘Whatever you ask, believe that you receive.’ It would be good for us all if we would look at God more as ‘the God of truth,’ and whenever anything is suggested to

our belief, to ask ourselves, 'Can this that I feel or think be true if God is true?' and if it *cannot*, then make God *truth*, and your own heart the liar. All sin has its origin in making the devil the God of truth, and God the Father of lies. This is the cause why the careless man continues in sin, and the anxious man in unbelief. They believe the statement of their own spirit, and disbelieve the words of God's Spirit. Give my kindest Christian love to your dear husband, and ask him to read the enclosed, a copy of which I purpose to send to every minister in Scotland.

"B. N."

The enclosure here referred to was a copy of that very useful leaflet which Mr. North published under the title of "Six Short Rules for Young Christians," and which is worthy of being preserved in this volume.

SIX SHORT RULES FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS.²

I.

Never neglect daily private prayer; and when you pray, remember that God is present, and that He hears your prayers. (Heb. xi. 6.)

II.

Never neglect daily private Bible-reading; and when you read, remember that God is speaking to you, and that you are to believe and act upon what He says. I believe all backsliding begins with the neglect of these two rules. (John v. 39.)

III.

Never let a day pass without trying to do something for Jesus. Every night reflect on what Jesus has done for you, and then ask yourself, What am I doing for Him? (Matt. v. 13-46.)

IV.

If ever you are in doubt as to a thing being right or wrong, go to your room, and kneel down and ask God's blessing upon it. (Col. iii. 17.) If you cannot do this, it is wrong. (Rom. xiv. 23.)

V.

Never take your Christianity from Christians, or argue that because such and such people do so and so, that therefore you may. (2 Cor. x. 12.) You are to ask yourself, How would Christ act in my place? and strive to follow Him. (John x. 27.)

VI.

² This tract was published by James Taylor, Castle Street, Edinburgh.

Never believe what you feel, if it contradicts God's Word. Ask yourself, Can what I feel be true, if God's Word is true? and if *both* cannot be true, believe God, and make your own heart the liar. (Rom. iii. 4; 1 John v. 10, 11.)

The Duchess of Gordon appears to have assisted Mr. North in bringing this unpretending but very useful leaflet under the notice of every minister in Scotland. A few days after the date of the above letter she writes

“THE LODGE, HUNTLY, *Jan. 3rd, 1859.*

“MY DEAR MR. NORTH,—I thank you much for your letter, and do most cordially desire for you the richest blessings of Christ's own covenant, all sure in Him, sealed by His blood, administered by His Holy Spirit, acted on by His grace. Truly everlasting praise is due to the Father, Son, and Spirit for all He has done in you and by you. Oh, how much I have to thank and praise for all His many mercies and love during the past year! I like your tract very much, and thank you for allowing me the privilege of helping to send it. With much sincere and affectionate Christian regard,

“I am, yours very truly,

“E. GORDON.”

The Duchess of Gordon had been the means of his previous awakening, and must have deeply sorrowed when the fair blossom went up as dust, and yielded no fruit; and now she rejoiced that the tree, which had borne nothing but leaves, was bringing forth a plentiful harvest of fruit to the glory of God the great husbandman, who had spared it in mercy, and digged about it, and watered it by His grace.

Only a few weeks after this the Duchess's heart was filled to overflowing with gratitude for a remarkable work of the Lord in Huntly, in her own house and in her schools. She wrote to my father, “A baby of four was sobbing, so that Mr. Radcliffe [who was then greatly blessed in Aberdeenshire] took her in his arms to find out if she was hurt. ‘Oh, no, only while you were praying I felt my heart so hard I could not love Jesus.’ Jesus is all their cry. Mrs. A. says, ‘Siccan a bargain as the Lord has made wi' me. He's ta'en my son, and He's gi'en me His ain Son. Blessed Jesus.’”

The next letters have a somewhat interesting history connected with them. The gentleman to whom they were addressed (Mr. W. T. McAuslane, now secretary of the Glasgow Association for the Relief of Incurables), was in 1863 on the staff of the Glasgow Morning Journal newspaper, and went in that capacity to report one of Mr. North's services which was held in the Queen's Rooms, Glasgow, in that year. As a boy he had come under religious impressions, but was ignorant of the saving truths of the gospel. After some years he had the privilege of sitting under a faithful preacher of

Christ, who showed clearly the way in which salvation had been procured for the sinner; but like many others, his young hearer did not understand clearly the way in which the sinner could come into personal possession of this salvation. He did not understand that *faith* is the instrument of a sinner's justification, and was in the dark as to the answer of prayer and assurance of pardon.

It was while in this state of mind that he was sent to report this service. Not only, as one has said, was the sermon (from Psalm. cxix. 26) transcribed by flying pencil on his note-book, but by the Divine Spirit upon the fleshy tablet of his heart, to be published not only in the morning's news, but in the more permanent record of his consecrated life. Some months afterwards he wrote to Mr. North, wishing still clearer light, especially on the subject of assurance that our prayers are answered, and that pardon has been bestowed. Mr. North wrote in reply:—

ON THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS.

“DEAR SIR,—I have received your most interesting letter, and regret that I have not found time to reply to it sooner. I have now great pleasure in answering the questions you propose to me, as far as my own light and knowledge enable me. May God the Holy Spirit, for Jesus Christ's sake, teach us both.

“1. You are to believe God's word without any other warrant whatever, simply because it is God's word; but doing so will necessarily produce peace and joy. Feelings are to flow out of faith, not faith out of feelings. If you *really* desire the pardon of God, and His favour, I believe you have it, because *He says* He will give it you if you ask it for Christ's sake; you *must be* glad.

“2. Yes, if what God says and what you feel cannot both be true, let God be true, and your own heart the liar.

“3. The feelings which faith should produce are love, joy, peace, a hatred of sin, and a desire after holiness. No doubt they will vary, because our faith varies, and all in us is variable; but we should ever remember that He *never* varies, but is always the same to us (Mal. iii. 6). Satan's great object is to get us not to trust God, but God's command is, ‘Trust in Him at all times’ (Ps. lxxii 8).

“4. When you can see Christ, you may look at your sins, your frames, or anything else you please; but when in darkness or doubt, or fancying yourself without Christ, you must look at nothing but Him. You must leave every other object of contemplation, and gaze at what He is, what He says, and what He has done. For He says, ‘I am the Beginning,’ ‘the Alpha,’ ‘the Foundation;’ and we must begin with and also build all on Him.

“May God make clear to you what you desire to understand. Endeavour to obey the injunction contained in the first eleven verses of 2 Peter i., and try and DO righteousness, whether you *like it* or not. It is never said *like it*, but *do it*. And recollect God’s definition of love in Cor. xiii. 6, John xiv. 21, ‘He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me.’ With much interest,

“Yours sincerely,

“BROWNLOW NORTH.”

This letter afforded much comfort; but this was interrupted by a minister observing that 1 John i. 9, “If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins,” was a promise for Christians, and that a sinner was not entitled to appropriate it. Mr. McAuslane again wrote to Mr. North in his difficulty, and his reply gave him comfort and peace.

“MY DEAR SIR,—In regard to your friend’s statement, that 1 John i. 9 was written for Christians, I answer, that a Christian is a man who believes what God says in the gospel of His Son, and that a man becomes a Christian the moment he believes. Scripture cannot contradict itself, and no confession of sin is considered as such by God, where there is not an intention to resist it and forsake it; but the man who goes to God by Jesus Christ, and asks for pardon for His sake, and does not believe he gets it, makes God a liar, as much as does the man who says he has no sin. See 1 John i. 10, in connection with the previous verse. If we confess our sins, and say we do not know whether He has forgiven us or not, when He says His faithfulness and justice are pledged for our pardon, we make Him a liar, . . . I believe faith to be a thing of degrees, and that a person may be in a state of salvation, and yet be very hopeless and desponding. Such a state however is quite foreign to the intention of the gospel. There is a great difference between faith and fellowship, or communion. This is promised to a certain line of conduct pursued after faith. Believe me, with much interest,

“Yours in Jesus,

“BROWNLOW NORTH,”³

Although Mr. McAuslane after this frequently corresponded with Mr. North, he writes under date Dec. 22nd, 1877:—

“I had the pleasure of a *personal* interview with Mr. North only once, and that not long before his death. It was at the Dundas Street station in Glasgow. I was on my way to Kirkintilloch, and seeing him on the platform

³ These letters are extracted with the author’s kind permission from an interesting little book, “Prayer, Pardon, and Peace.” Glass & Co. Glasgow.

could not resist the impulse to speak to him. On mentioning my name, he shook me most cordially by the hand, remarking, How was I, without your introducing yourself, to know you from any of the rest of Adam's children? I rejoice over you.' In the happiness of the moment I forgot my business, and was reminded of it by seeing the train moving off, and it was with some difficulty I overtook it in the tunnel. I had to tear myself away, and I never saw him more. I trust, however, I shall see him yet again. His memory I gratefully and lovingly cherish."

The next letter was written to the lady, one of whose letters is given in chapter vi., who was brought to the Saviour through his ministry. It is a reply to a letter telling of her work for her Lord.

TO A CHRISTIAN WORKER.

"PLYMOUTH, *Feb. 16th*, 1871.

"I do so thank God for all He has done for you, and in you and by you. I rejoice over my 'grandchildren' [so called because they were the spiritual children of one of whom he was the father in Christ], and firmly believe that through your conversion children's children yet unborn shall praise the Lord. To Him be the praise, for no one knows better than yourself that it is only when *He* gives it that there is any blessing. I am sorry in a natural sense that you are not in better health, but I am so persuaded that God is dealing with you as a child whom He loveth, and that all things are working together for your good, that I am unable to wish anything altered, or rather to ask Him to alter anything, only to keep you abiding in Him and He in you in a continually growing and closer union. How I do rejoice with you in what God has permitted you to see of the fruit of your work for Him! and by this time I trust you have seen some more."

TO THE SAME.

"TUNBRIDGE, *Feb.*, 1873.

"Many, many happy returns of your birthday to you! and I know you will have them, if not here, in a better land; for you have had another birthday, even a spiritual, and can never die. Were it not so, one hardly knows how to congratulate; but 'I thank my God on every remembrance of you,' as Paul said to the Philippians, and most heartily congratulate you, and put you in mind that every birthday your salvation from every trial and sickness and sorrow is a year nearer than when you believed. And then I suspect that by this time I am a great-grandfather at least, so that by the grace of God we can both say with our Elder Brother, 'Behold me, and the children which God has given me.' Surely it is worth all the cross-bearing, to be honoured to bring sinners to God. May *He* bless you more and more, and enable you as you grow in years to grow in grace."

At another time he wrote to the same correspondent:—

“I think it is decidedly unscriptural to fix any time with God for His doing anything. The times and seasons the Father hath put in His own hand. The man Christ Jesus has asked for the heathen, and He *will* get them, but He has waited eighteen hundred years already, and has told us that as man He knows nothing of the ‘when.’ Pray on, and believe; you *shall* reap.”

TO A FRIEND, ACCOMPANYING THE GIFT OF A BIBLE.

“MY DEAR —, Accept from me this copy of God’s Holy Word, as a small mark of very much regard and affection. I thank God for the good work which I trust He has begun in you; but I would take this opportunity of urging on you not to count yourself to have attained, but to study with all diligence to go on unto perfection, remembering that *perfection is the likeness of God*. This perfection is only to be obtained by a spiritual knowledge and a spiritual practice of the truths contained in this Book. Therefore, not only read, but *search* the Scriptures daily, and be sure that there is no source from which so much useful knowledge is to be obtained as from the Bible. But remember that its words are *spirit* (John vi. 6-8), and can only be profitably received by the teaching of the Spirit; therefore be much in prayer *for the teaching of the Spirit*. Thus reading, and thus praying, you have a scriptural warrant to expect that He who wrote the Bible will tell you words in secret, which shall not only be life to your own soul, but which, when you proclaim as you have opportunity to others, shall be to the glory of God and the good of men.

“That God for Jesus Christ may bless you and keep you, multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness, is the earnest and heartfelt prayer of

“Yours very affectionately,

“BROWNLOW NORTH.

“James iv. 7, 8; x Cor. iii. 19; Col. iii, 11; 1 Cor. i. 30.”

The next letter is one written at a considerably later date than those already quoted, having been sent, very shortly after her being brought to Christ, to a young lady who was one of the fruits of his ministry in London, in the Rev. Adolph Saphir’s church, in 1873.

LETTER TO A YOUNG DISCIPLE.

“34, SUSSEX PLACE, KENSINGTON, W., *May 26th*, 1873.

“MY DEAR MISS E—, I sit down with the full intention of writing to you, as you ask me to do, a very long letter; that is, of getting to the end of this big sheet of paper, which, if I do, will be as long a letter as I have written

for years. I naturally feel a great interest in you as my child in the Lord, and have great pleasure in writing to you! May the Lord enable me to say a word or two worth reading. What a marvellous blessing your visit to London has been to you! what a treasure God has given you to carry home with you! not merely 'the unsearchable riches of Christ,' so that you not only have abundance of all really good things for yourself, but *to spare*, so that you can give to others, and make them as rich as yourself; but He has given you *Christ Himself!* *He* is yours, and you are His, and you may boldly say so. He is in *you*, your Lord, your Husband, your Brother, your Friend, your Counsellor, your Saviour, your God. Oh, be faithful! *He* is faithful who hath called you; and through Him, and by His strength, you can do all things; and He has said He will never leave you nor forsake you. Therefore fear not, dear Miss E., no matter what may be the cross He may see fit to call on you to bear. Learn Isaiah li. 12, 13, by heart, and pray God to bless the word to you, and then, looking unto Jesus, 'be steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.'

"I cannot tell you how delighted I was to find you occupied as I did the last time I saw you. It strengthened my heart, and gave me courage to hope that through your instrumentality I shall be found the father of many grandchildren. May it please God to make Mrs. A. one of them. I hope you will not lose sight of her, and if you have any news to tell me of her, please let me know it. I have had much to encourage me ever since I saw you. God is so good to me. Yesterday I preached at the Agricultural Hall. After the service one tall old gentleman on the platform came up to me with tears in his eyes, and thanked me for what he had heard, and before I got off the platform another came in the same way. Two on that small platform! There were about 3,000 hearers. Oh, may the blessing over the whole have been at least in the like proportion! On Sunday next I preach, God willing, in a church near here, and on Monday go to stay with Lord Cavan for a few days at Weston-super-Mare, returning to preach for Mr. Saphir on the evening of the 8th. Remember me in prayer especially that night.

"Yours with true Christian interest and affection,
"BROWNLOW NORTH."

A year later he wrote to the same lady a letter from which we extract a few sentences.

"GLASGOW, *April 8th*, 1874.

"MY DEAR Miss E—, I am filled with shame at myself when I look at the date of your kind and most interesting letter, which was sent to me here, and is now before me; but the truth is, that I am so overworked, that I look with dread at letter-writing. I thank God, who has enabled you in spite of

crosses to persevere in His ways. Go on, dear child, nothing terrified by your adversaries, and in due season you shall reap.

“What you tell about my tract, and your tract distribution, is most interesting, and I will order a quantity of different ones I have written to be sent to you, carriage free, on hearing that you are still at home, and would like to have them. You speak of ‘complete sanctification.’ I do *not* believe that any one will ever attain to it *here*; but for all that, we are to strive after it, because *He* tells us to. In so doing we may get near it, but the man who is nearest it will be the last to say he has it. I shall be so glad to accept your drawing, but keep it till about Christmas, and then send it to me at 34, Sussex Place, Kensington. Send me a line, and never think I am not interested in you because I do not write; for I am always, though very busy,

“Very heartily yours in Jesus,

“BROWNLOW NORTH.”

LETTER TO A FRIEND IN AFFLICTION.

“KEITH HALL, INVERURIE, *Sept. 19th, 1874.*”

“Thank you, my dearest Mrs. A., for your deeply interesting letter received yesterday. H. is indeed ‘an epistle known and read’ of all who have the privilege of her acquaintance, and one for whom both you and I ‘thank God upon every remembrance’ of her. I do trust and pray she may be spared to us, and to many who love her, and she seems herself to think she shall. The most she says, however, is, that if it is God’s will, she is willing. For all her goodness, however, no one on earth is perfect; and after what her doctor told her about stimulants, had she sunk for the want of them she would have been greatly guilty, and I sincerely hope she will not persist in that, should the doctor again find it necessary to tell her she must take them. I had a beautiful letter written in pencil, sweet child! from her the other day. Tell her I will answer it, God willing, in a day or two, but this will give you both all that I have to say at present. I sent her letter to Grace [Mrs. North]. I know it will please her to see that H. in the midst of her own troubles so affectionately remembered her. As to you, dearest Mrs. A., you are evidently amongst those the Lord loveth and chasteneth. First, your dear granddaughter’s illness, then your own, and now His (not to speak of bitterness which your own heart alone knoweth), are every one of them the distinctive orderings of a loving Father, and among the ‘light tribulation’ which is but for a moment, and which is working for you a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. Wherefore, though sorrowful, be always rejoicing, for ‘it is the Lord, and *He* doeth all things well.’ I go to Lord Aberdeen’s, God willing, on the 22nd, till Tuesday, 29th, when I go to the Brown-Douglas’s. Let me have a line as soon as you can find time, to tell me of dear H.; and, by-the-bye, would you kindly get the music to which dear Mary set Minnie

Douglas's pretty words, 'What is death?' Give my very kindest love to your husband. Love to H. and the chickens.

"Yours most lovingly,
"BROWNLOW NORTH."

TO THE SAME.

"GRANTHAM HOUSE, PUTNEY HEATH,

"LONDON, *Nov. 14th*, 1874.

"I have a great dislike, dearest Mrs. A., of asking you to write letters; but as you say there is no such bond of love and affection as that which links together the giver and receiver of spiritual blessing, and I am very fond both of you and your sister, and now that she is so ill, hovering as it were on the very verge of heaven, I feel very anxious, not only to hear how she is, but what she is doing, what she is saying. Do please send me a long letter, all about her and yourself; and what effects what they witness in her has on your very lovable husband and her father. I do pray that at her bedside, the one, seeing the power of Christ, may become a true convert to Christianity, and the other be brought more and more to see the hollowness of all that is merely of the earth, and to turn from dumb idols to serve the only living and true God, and to wait for His Son, who *will* come from heaven: and do you both pray the same for me; for though the idols of one man differ from the idols of another, I fear there are few who are not guilty of the sin, and to whom Paul's injunction, 'Beloved, flee from idolatry,' is unnecessary.

"I do trust when you write your account of dearest H., she will be better as to health. I have no doubt that as far as her spiritual health is concerned it will be most refreshing. And it *must* be a great privilege to be near her just now. I did not like to say anything about it, because it would have been purely selfish, but I cannot tell you how disappointed I was at its not being possible for me to see her. Give her my fond love, and once more Philip. i. 3.

"Yours always,
"BROWNLOW NORTH."

From these samples of his correspondence it will be seen that if Mr. North in public was emphatically a preacher in earnest, he was no less assiduous and painstaking in private in seeking to guide souls to the Saviour, and to dissipate their doubts and fears. He grudged no labour or tax upon his time and strength in administering the counsel and direction which he was so well fitted to impart.