THE

**THEOLOGICAL WORKS**

OF THE

**REV. THOMAS SCOTT,**

AUTHOR OF A COMMENTARY ON THE BIBLE.

CONTAINING

THE FORCE OF TRUTH,—TREATISE ON REPENTANCE,—GROWTH IN GRACE, SERMON ON ELECTION AND FINAL PERSEVERANCE,—SERMONS ON SELECT SUBJECTS,—ESSAYS ON THE MOST IMPORTANT SUBJECTS IN RELIGION, AND THE NATURE AND WARRANT OF FAITH IN CHRIST.

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EDINBURGH:

THOMAS NELSON AND PETER BROWN.

M.DCCC.XXXI.

PREFACE.

IF a book do not apologize for itself, it is in vain for the author to attempt it by a preface; I shall, therefore, only de­clare the nature and intent of this publi­cation.

Indeed, it contains little more than the history of my heart, that forge of iniquity; and my conscience, that friendly, but too often neglected monitor. By men in general, this latter is hated, because, as far as informed, it boldly tells the truth: and their grand endeavour seems to be, to lay it asleep, or to render it as in­sensible as if seared with a hot iron. Through the deceitfulness of the human heart, the allurements of the world, and the artifices of Satan, this, at length, is commonly accomplished; and in the meantime, they deafen themselves to its remonstrances, by living in a continual noise and bustle. The conflict in my soul between these two is here related; and some account given of the artifices which Satan, in confederacy with my heart, made use of to keep my conscience quiet, and silence its remonstrances; and also of the means which the Lord em­ployed to defeat this conspiracy, to give conscience its due ascendency, and to incline my before unwilling heart to be­come obedient to its friendly admoni­tions; with the effect thereof upon my religious views and conduct.

As to the effect of this publication re­specting my character and worldly in­terest, myself, and all that is dear to me, I would leave in his hands, who causeth all to work together for good, to them that love him, whom he hath called according to his purpose. And he hath so evinced his care over me, and goodness to me, in all the concerns of my past life, that it were shameful, if I did not most willingly cast all my care upon him for the future. But, reader, the effect of it respecting thee, I have much at heart; and have had, and shall, I trust, continue to have it much in my prayers.

If thou art a believing servant of God, I hope thou wilt see cause to bless God in me, and wilt be established and comforted thereby; according to the fervent desire of my soul, for all that love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. If thou art one, whose experience answers in many things to what is related in the former part of this narrative, as face answers to face in the water, may the Lord, the Spirit who convinceth of sin, alarm thy drowsy conscience, and bring thee under a serious concern for thy pre­cious soul, and its eternal interests: may he incline thine heart diligently to use the means here spoken of, as far as con­science evidences it to be thy duty; and may he bless the means for enlightening thy mind with the knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus; and guiding thy wandering feet into the ways of peace. This, be assured, is my hearty prayer for thee; and with this prayer I com- mend this work unto the Lord, that if it be his blessed will, he may employ it as an instrument for advancing his glory, and the salvation of souls.

THOMAS SCOTT.

Weston, Underwood, Feb. 26,1779.

PREFACE.

ALMOSTtwenty years have now elapsed since the ensuing Narrative was first published. During this time the Author has had abundant opportu­nities of examining, over and over again, the principles which he then in­tended to inculcate. If, therefore, he had, on further reflection, materially altered his sentiments, he should have thought himself bound, by the strongest obligations, to retract what he had erroneously advanced. But he is thankful that, on the contrary, he feels it incumbent on him to de­clare most solemnly, as in the presence of God, that everything which he has since experienced, observed, heard and read, has concurred in esta­blishing his most assured confidence, that the doctrines recommended in this publication, are the grand and distinguishing peculiarities of genuine Christianity.

Very many *verbal* corrections, with a few retrenchments and additions, will be found in this Edition. In improvements of this kind, the Author has bestowed considerable pains: but, he has been *scrupulously,* and al­most *superstitiously,* careful to admit no alteration, which can in the least degree change the meaning of any passage.

He feels thankful, that the leading desire of his heart, in publishing a work, which seems to relate almost exclusively to himself and his own little concerns, has not been wholly disappointed; but he would earnestly request the prayers of all, who favour the doctrines here inculcated, for a more abundant and extensive blessing on this, and all his other feeble en­deavours, to contend earnestly “for the faith once delivered to the saints.”

*Chapel-Street, Oct.* 16, 1798