thinking so, they resist them, as things that directly
tend to their overthrow. 2. They also think that these
fears tend to the spoiling of their faith; when, alas for
them, poor men that they are, they have none at all!
and therefore they harden their hearts against them.
3. They presume they ought not to fear, and therefore,
in despite of them, wax presumptuously confident.
4. They see that those fears tend to take away from
them their pitiful old self-holiness, and therefore they
resist them with all their might.

HoPE. I know something of this myself; for before I
knew myself it was so with me.

CHR. Well, we will leave at this time our neighbour
Ignorance by himself, and fall upon another profitable
question.

HoPE. With all my heart; but you shall still begin.

CHR. Well, then, did you know, about ten years ago,
one Temporary in your parts, who was a forward man
in religion then?

HoPE. Know him! yes; he dwelt in Graceless, a town
about two miles off of Honesty, and he dwelt next door
to one Turnback.

CHR. Right; he dwelt under the same roof with him.
Well, that man was much awakened once: I believe
that then he had some sight of his sins, and of the
wages that were due thereto.

HoPE. I am of your mind, for (my house not being
above three miles from him) he would oftentimes come to
me, and that with many tears. Truly I pitied the man,
and was not altogether without hope of him: but one
may see, it is not every one that cries, "Lord, Lord."

CHR. He told me once that he was resolved to go
on pilgrimage as we go now; but all on a sudden he
grew acquainted with one Save-self, and then he became
a stranger to me.

HoPE. Now, since we are talking about him, let us a
little inquire into the reason of the sudden backsliding
of him and such others.

CHR. It may be very profitable; but do you begin.