

His disease gained rapidly on him, under the severity of imprisonment during the winter. But he still prevailed, and arose continually, at 4 in the morning, and often spent the greater part of the night in communion with God. After he was released the least time, he was not a bee to do much. But the remainder of his useful life presents one of the most affecting instances, of lovely suffering, and of holy submission to God. He was urged by his friends to try the Springs at Bath, here he was very useful tho, unable to preach. His highly cultivated intellect fitted him for associating with all classes of people, and his private intercourse with the higher classes of society, was often beset by the Lord. Being unable to walk he was carried to see the schools, & other houses, in order to converse with the poor, and the sick. Here too, says his widow he established a Sunday school - which contained 60 or 70 children every day, day at his own house - where he generally instructed them in the catechism, and otherwise. During all his illness he never missed his appointed time of private prayer 4 times a day. He was at length seized with convulsions - by which his body was most astonishingly agitated for 48 hours. His wife fearing that were he thus to leave the world sinners would be hardened, because he had never put on the bed of death uttered his appearance in the Saviour - she prayed therefore that the Lord would suffer him to speak before his departure - her prayer was heard for in a little time he began to speak and for 16 hours expressed his hope in a dying Saviour in most rapturous strains. And he. He was however, afterwards tempted to doubt Gods love. But the tempter being overcome he ceased not to praise God till within a few moments of his death.

He died at Bath in 1668 - aged 36 years -
He now reaps his reward in the Helms of bliss - Where no doubt all the faithful servants of God shall see him, whose writings have affected so much God in the world - his productions are numerous - the most celebrated is his attainment to the unconquered - a work which has kept through perhaps more than 50 editions it was first published 4 years after his death and in less than 5 years there were more than 17,000 copies printed - it has since been said the works of the righteous shall follow him - Thus this holy man has preached to millions who were unborn when he died & will continue to preach, till time shall be no more.

This faithful servant of the Lord was born in Wiltshire in the year 1633. His father Tobias Alline was a private man, but much devoted to the Lord, he died about 2 years before his son, in the triumphs of redeeming grace. Joseph from his infancy was remarkable for the sweetness of his disposition, and the diligence with which he pursued all his biblical avocations. During his infancy he had many very deep religious convictions, the spirit of God was striving most powerfully in his young heart. Nor was he unmindful of these graciously calls, for in his 11th year he was observed to be very zealous in the cause of Religion. About this time he commenced private prayer, and it is evident from the fact that nothing could disturb him in his religious avocations that he was, ardently engaged in them. Thus early had young Alline commenced the Christian course, though we do not know when or where he was converted, yet no one that knows anything about him will dare to say more devoted to Religion than he, and it may safely be said that he paid more attention to his own heart, than is the case with most preachers of the Gospel. When he was between 11 & 12 years old, his brother who was a preacher died shortly after a course of preparation for the Gospel ministry. The pious father who, was no doubt convinced of the purity of his sons motives, complied with his request, and sent him to a preparatory school where he studied with perseverance for 4 years. During this time he acquired a good knowledge of the Latin & Greek languages, and was declared by his preceptor to be qualified for the university. But his father thought him too young to enter the university at 15 spent in hard study, at the expiration of his year he was entered a student of the University of Oxford. At the age of 18 he received a scholarship in Corpus Christi college where he soon acquired a tolerable proficiency. It was during his college course, that he laid up that fund of knowledge, which he afterwards used to so much advantage.

in the cause of Religion. A fellow student says of him, that I have never had a closer student. He was engaged night & day in acquiring knowledge. He generally got up till one o'clock & it was seldom he was in bed after four in the morning. Such a course of study, a naturally a good mind, soon brought him into notice. As soon as he had taken his first degree he was almost compelled to become a tutor - he no sooner became ~~open~~ than he had as great a number of pupils as any other man in the university. A fellowship was offered him, but he refused. His whole soul was taken up with Religion. He frequently visited the poor in Oxford, and commended religious exercises in the jail. He fed the souls & bodies of the prisoners for he sent them weekly an allowance of bread, & preached every fortnight for them. From this man of God, all students of the present day may learn what a man can do. It is a very common remark for students to make especially those who are engaged in classical studies that they cannot attend to religion as they ought in consequence of having so much to study. But this pious student never suffered his studies to come in contact with his devotion. For he appears to have been growing as rapidly in grace, as he was in knowledge. Besides the common studies of the university it appears he studied some parts of theology for he left Oxford in 1653, having been there less than 4 years. He went to Somersetshire, where he remained for sometime with Red Geo. Newton. He remained with this pious man, but a short time when he was ordained a preacher for his 22. year he was married to his cousin Theodora Atkine, he removed to Taunton, where he & his wife opened a boarding school - which was carried on for many years with great success - and many of the pupils were brought to a knowledge of Jesus. He was very affectionate to the pupils, they all called him father, though he was but a young man. After his marriage, he always arose before 4 in the morning but much sooner on the Sabbath, from 4 to 8, he spent in private prayer, reading the Bible, & singing Psalms at nine he called his family together for prayer then went to his study till twelve then prayer & dinner 5 days in the week he went to visit his parish houses from 2 in the afternoon till 7 and talked to every one individually about their souls - he was truly a disciple of Jesus.

His work on the Sabbath was to preach once, and to catechise this he did constantly - always keeping back a little time on the Sabbath which he might use in preaching to the destitute congregations in his neighborhood. He continued in this situation for 7 years, doing all the good in his power - he was universally beloved as a man and admired by the pious as a faithful preacher of the N. Testament. In 1655, he was settled at Taunton, five year before the death of Cromwell, and the restoration of the Stuarts to the English throne. The Act of Uniformity, which compelled all who did not conform to the religious ceremonies established by law to desist from preaching drove many of the best and wisest men from the ministry - and that tyranny which compelled them to leave their pulpits, also followed them wherever they went. This Act went into operation in 1652. But, Mr. Atkine continued his labor of love until 1663, when he was apprehended & imprisoned under a false charge of having violated this intolerant act. Like the illustrious Apostle of the gentiles, he was taken by tyrant, from his dear friends, and cast into a gloomy, cheerless prison. But, he could not but bring with delight, & rapture. While kept with a sense of his love a palace a toy would appear and prisons would palaces prove. If Jesus moved dwell with him there. The parting scene, with his dear family and parishioners was very affecting, but he encouraged them to love the Lord. His sufferings in prison were very great, but his zeal rose higher & higher as his sufferings increased and the prison furnished but an other sphere of usefulness - he soon converted it into a Bethel for the Lord was there - he preached regularly in the prison and his preaching was attended not only by the prisoners, but hundreds who assembled from the surrounding country. The history of his sufferings & his labors while in prison, is very interesting but too extensive to be brought within the narrower limits of the present space. A long imprisonment almost fatigued his health. But his love for souls still continued. He was released from prison in 1664 - but twice a year, which prohibited any person from preaching within five miles of any parliamentary town, who had not been released - but his health was ruined. His once athletic frame had been broken down.