Book Title: The Rise and Progress of Religion in the Soul

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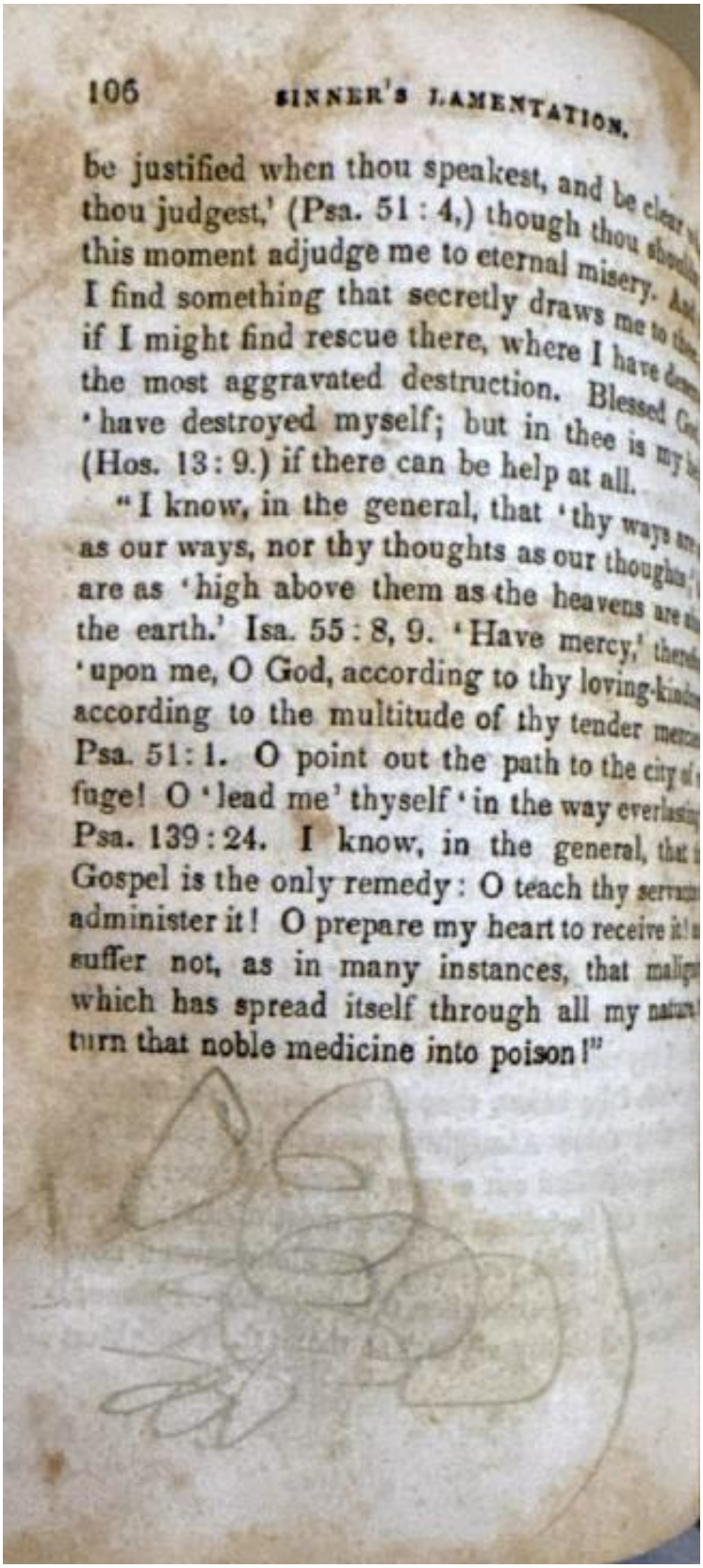

be justified when thou speakest, and be clear
thou judgest,' (Psa. 51 : 4,) though thou sho
this moment adjudge me to eternal misery. A
I find something that secretly draws me to
if I might find rescue there, where I have d
the most aggravated destruction. Blessed G
'have destroyed myself; but in thee is my
(Hos. 13 : 9.) if there can be help at all.

"I know, in the general, that 'thy ways a
as our ways, nor thy thoughts as our thoughts
are as 'high above them as the heavens are
the earth.' Isa. 55 : 8, 9. 'Have mercy,' there
'upon me, O God, according to thy loving-kind
according to the multitude of thy tender mer
Psa. 51 : 1. O point out the path to the city
fuge! O 'lead me' thyself 'in the way everlas
Psa. 139 : 24. I know, in the general, that
Gospel is the only remedy : O teach thy serva
administer it! O prepare my heart to receive it!
suffer not, as in many instances, that malig
which has spread itself through all my natur
turn that noble medicine into poison!"

[Scribbles in pencil]

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CHAPTER VIII.

NEWS OF SALVATION BY CHRIST BROUGHT TO THE CONVINCED AND CONDEMNED SINNER.

1. The awful things which have hitherto been said, intended not to grieve, but to help.—2. After some reflection on the pleasure with which a minister of the Gospel may deliver the message with which he is charged.—3. And some reasons for the repetition of what is in speculation so generally known.—4. 6. The author proceeds briefly to declare the substance of these glad tidings: viz. that God having in his infinite compassion sent his Son to die for sinners, is now reconcilable through him.—7. 8. So that the most heinous transgressions shall be entirely pardoned to believers, and they made completely and eternally happy. The sinner's reflection on this good news.

1. My dear reader, it is the great design of the Gospel, and wherever it is cordially received, it is the glorious effect of it, to fill the heart with sentiments of love; to teach us to abhor all unnecessary rigor and severity, and to delight not in the grief, but in the happiness of our fellow-creatures. I can hardly apprehend how he can be a Christian who takes pleasure in the distress which appears even in a brute, much less in that of a human mind; and especially in such distress as the thoughts I have been proposing must give, if there be any due atten-