

if you could read it. Look, the first is black, the next red, then white and gold."

The first is a picture of the heart of every boy and girl in this Hall, before they ask the Lord Jesus to wash away their sins. There is nothing in all this earth so black as sin. Once there was a contagious disease that broke out in the old country that they called the black plague; nearly everybody caught it and there were so many sick people that the Doctors couldn't go and see them all, and hundreds and thousands died and they couldn't get hearses and coffins enough to bury them; so they dug a big pit, and they sent black carts through streets to collect the bodies which were thrown into the pit. There was black on almost every door, and the people were all in black; it was one of the saddest pictures in the pages of English history. But there is a blacker plague than that in the world now. It broke out in the garden of Eden, and it spread over the whole earth, there is not a man, a woman or a child who has it not; I mean *sin*. God says:

"There is no difference, for *all* have sinned and come short of the glory of God," and "sin when it is finished bringeth forth *death*." Ah! boys and girls it is a *black* picture is it not? Let us leave it and look at the next:—