

try, my people, my place, my wife, my children, and whatsoever else is herein concerned, into thy hand, from whom I received them. Lord have mercy upon me, and assist me for ever to keep faith and a good conscience." Thus to make conscience-work of solemn religious questions, will secure a sweet satisfaction in the moment of death. Let "honesty in religion" be a motto by which we shall steer our course. Honesty will command the admiration of many, and stop the mouths of gainsayers. A stern protest must be made against formalism and hypocrisy. It is necessary now, as in former times. Acting a lie by living in a communion contrary to our convictions, is a life long falsehood. Jesuits may allow a lie of this character, but a God of truth who is without iniquity, never. The recent events in connection with the demise and burial of Sir Allan McNab, quickens our sense of the necessity of educating the public mind up to a full sense of the paramount duty of honesty in religion.

The clear enunciation of truth by Peter proves, that *this faithfulness to God is required in spite of all opposition*. To bask in the sunshine of courtly favour, and to receive the frankincense of praise from our fellow-men, may be pleasant, yet through the toil and strife and agony of resistance unto blood against sin, we ought to follow Christ. When God's will and man's requirements are antagonistic, a choice must be made. The three Hebrews—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—refused to worship the golden image which Nebuchadnezzar had set up. Their answer to the King was "we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from this burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O King. But if not, be it known unto thee, O King, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up." When Kings, Lords, and Commons in England required subscription to articles, and conformity to ceremonies of which conscience disapproved, a calm, sublime, and thrilling NO came from two thousand pulpits. The authority of "the powers that be" ought to be well understood; let them be obeyed in all matters over which God has appointed them to preside; into the domain of conscience, we firmly hold they have no right to intrude.

" Let Cæsar's due be ever paid,
To Cæsar and his throne;
But consciences and souls were made
To be the Lord's alone."

Earthly powers are not keepers of conscience. The Lord is our Judge, the Lord is our law-giver, the Lord is our King, He will save us. When civil authorities say, thus and thus shall ye publicly worship God or not at all, their will should be resisted even to death. How happy are the people freed from all attempts of that character; to us the lines are fallen in pleasant places. Trial of bonds and imprisonments—nakedness, and peril, and sword, are not to be dreaded under the peaceful sceptre of our Gracious Sovereign, Queen Victoria. Other men laboured, and we have entered into their labours. Then in the face of such difficulties as may require to be met in confessing the name of Jesus, let us boldly, yet meekly, stand up for Him.

We should notice, that *in our obedience to God, the spirit of love is essential to the proper discharge of the service*. Religious work must be done in a religious spirit. This we claim as pre-eminently the spirit of the Noncon-