

doos, but they do not, according to late commentators, date prior to the twelfth century before the Christian era.

The Zendavesta of the Persians, next to our Bible, is reckoned among scholars as being the greatest and most learned of these writings. Zoroaster, whose sayings it contained, lived and worked in the twelfth century before Christ.

Moses lived and wrote the Pentateuch 1,500 years before the birth of Christ; therefore that portion of our Bible is at least 300 years older than the most ancient of the other so-called sacred writings.

The Eddas, a semi-sacred work of the Scandinavians, was first given to the world in the fourteenth century—*Word and Work*.

Fate of the Apostles.

All the apostles were assaulted by the enemies of the Master. They were called to seal their doctrines with their blood, and nobly did they bear the trial. Tradition says;

Matthew suffered martyrdom by being slain with the sword at the distant city of Ethiopia.

Mark expired at Alexandria, after having been cruelly dragged through the streets of that city.

Luke was hanged upon an olive tree in the classical land of Greece.

John was put into a cauldron of boiling oil, but escaped death in a miraculous manner and was afterwards banished to Patmos.

Peter was crucified at Rome, with his head downward.

James, the greater, was beheaded at Jerusalem.

James, the less, was thrown from a lofty pinnacle of the temple, and then beaten to death with a fuller's club.

Philip was hanged up against a pillar at Heropolis, in Phrygia.

Bartholomew was flayed alive.

Andrew was bound to the cross, whence he preached to his persecutors until he died.

Thomas was run through the body with a lance, in the East Indies.

Jude was shot to death with arrows.

Matthias was first stoned and then beheaded.

Barnabas, of the Gentiles, was stoned to death by the Jews, at Salonica.

Paul, after various tortures and persecutions, was at length beheaded at Rome by the Emperor Nero.

Simon Zelotes was crucified in India.

LAY INFLUENCE—Where we find a layman regular in attendance in church on Sunday and week day, as if it was his business to be there, we know at once that his personal influence is valuable in that church. A very few such men make a live church, for there is nothing that draws more than the fact that this or that church is known as frequented by such men. The value of a layman's example in a business-like punctuality at every religious service is the greatest prize that God can grant to any church, next to a faithful pastor.—*Episcopal Register*.