

PLEASANT HOURS

A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK.

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The Man of Sorrows.

FROM THE LATIN OF ST. BERNARD.

HAIL! thou Head, so bruised and wounded,
With the crown of thorns surrounded,
Smitten with the mocking reed;
Wounds which may not cease to bleed,
Trickling faint and slow:

Hail! from whose most blessed brow
None can wipe the blood-drops now:
All the bloom of life has fled,
Mortal paleness there instead:
Thou, before whose presence dread
Angels trembling bow.

All thy vigour and thy life
Fading in this bitter strife,
Death his stamp on thee hath set,
Hollow and emaciate,

Faint and drooping there:
Thou this agony and scorn
Hast for me, a sinner, borne;
Me, unworthy, all for me!
With those wounds of love on thee,
Glorious Face, appear!

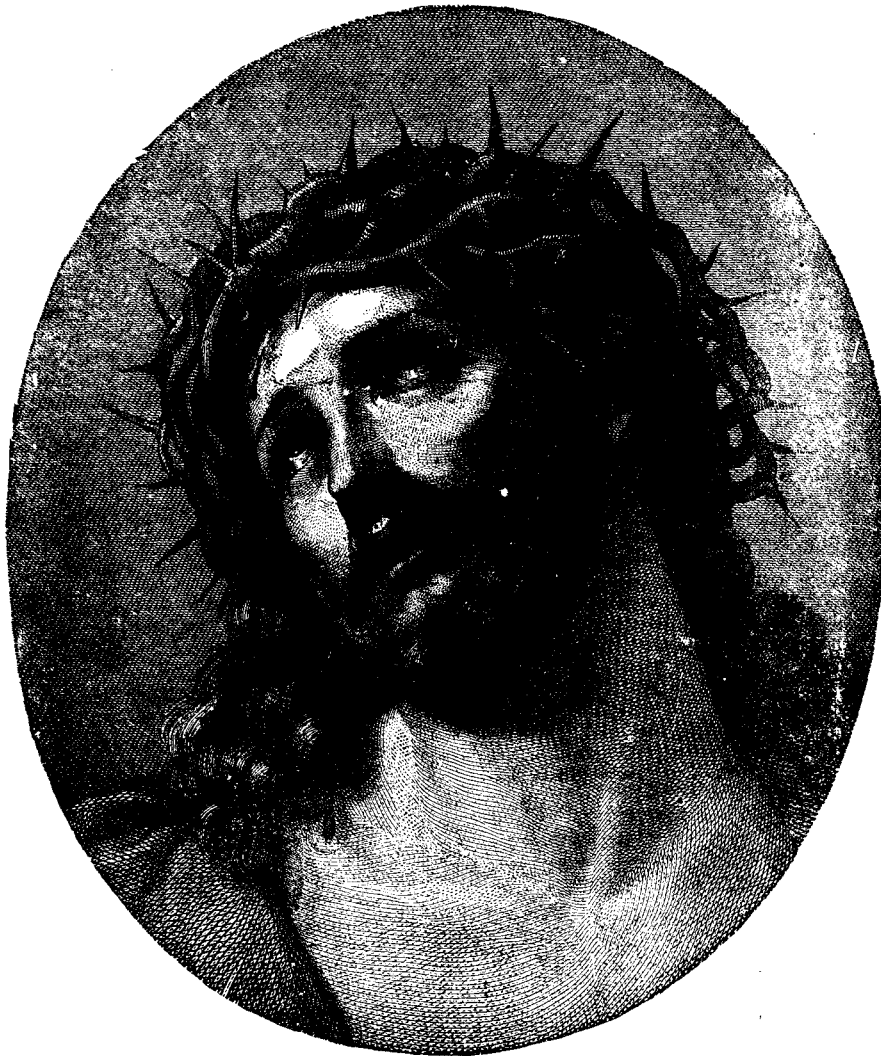
Yet, in this thine agony,
Faithful Shepherd, think of me:
From whose lips of love Divine
Sweetest draughts of life are mine,
Purest honey flows:

All unworthy of thy thought,
Guilty, yet reject me not;
Unto me thy heart incline—
Let that dying head of thine
In mine arms repose!

Let me true communion know
With thee in thy sacred woe,
Counting all beside but dross,
Dying with thee on thy cross;—
Neath it will I die!

Thanks to thee with every breath,
Jesus, for thy bitter death!
Grant thy guilty one this prayer,—
When my dying hour is near,
Gracious God, be nigh!

When my dying hour must be,
Be not absent then from me;
In that solemn hour, I pray,
Jesus, come without delay;
See, and set me free!



CHRIST CROWNED WITH THORNS.

When thou biddest me depart,
Whom I cleave to with my heart,
Lover of my soul, be near;
With thy saving cross appear;
Show thyself to me!

AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS.

WE have pleasure in presenting in this number of PLEASANT HOURS a copy of one of Mr. George Tinworth's wonderful reliefs of Bible subjects. Mr. Tinworth was a poor London lad, brought up in poverty, hunger, and dirt, child of a drunken father, early apprenticed to the wheelwright trade. His mother was a godly woman, by whom he was brought up in the very atmosphere of the Bible. The Scriptures were read to him and by him from cover to cover, over and over, till they sank into his blood and became part of his very nature.

The instinct to carve, and mould, and draw, could not be repressed. At last he found employment in the Doulton pottery works and began his wonderful career in moulding Biblical bas-reliefs. These have won for him great fame from the art critics. Some of these pieces are of great size. One panel is twenty-three feet long and nine feet high. The one given below shows the scenes at the foot of the cross, at the awful hour of the crucifixion, as the soldiers cast lots for his garments.

The appropriateness of the texts quoted in the panel below will be apparent to everyone. We repeat them, as some are hard to make out: "Consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself." "And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar." "Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary, the wife of Cleophas." "For a sign which shall be spoken against," etc.

To the extreme right the Jews taunt him saying: "He trusted in God that he would deliver him; let him deliver him



AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS.