

APPLICATION

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven,
v. 1. An Emperor of Germany long ago

offended the Pope. Before the Pope would
pronounce forgiveness, he made
Pardon, Free the poor Emperor stay for
and Now three days outside the castle

gate. It was winter time and the snow was deep, and the unfortunate man suffered greatly, but he thought it all necessary to have his sin removed. Christ does not ask any such penance on our part. His pardon is full and free. There are no bitter hours of waiting. At once the poor sinner is blessed who seeks His pardoning love; and all who desire His forgiveness can have it.

In whose spirit... no guile, v. 2. A number of gamblers were in the room of an inn, and they were making night hideous by their noise and blasphemy. The "A Soft Pillow" famous preacher, Whitefield, happened to be staying at the same inn. He could not endure to hear the name of his Saviour thus profaned. It took away his sleep. At length he said, "I will go and reprove them". He did so, but the profanity did not stop. His companions, who had tried to restrain him, now asked, "What did you gain by speaking to those men?" "A soft pillow", was Whitefield's answer, and he lay down and was soon quietly asleep. He had relieved his conscience. He had delivered his soul from all sense of guilty compromise. The guileless man who has the clearest conscience has the softest pillow.

Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin, v. 5. Some Orientals used to have a very simple way of keeping their books. They used a

wax tablet, and when anyone
Will Not owed them money, they took
Remember a sharp pencil and indented a mark in the soft wax. Afterwards, when the debtor came and paid his debts, they would take the flat end of the pencil and press it over the marks in the wax and obliterate them all, until there remained no more charges against the man. All our sins are recorded in the book of God's memory, and there they must forever stay, were it not that Jesus Christ has made an atonement for them, and now, if we confess our trans-

gressions, God will blot them all out, and the past will never be charged against us; for He has said, "I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions for Mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins" (Isa. 43 : 25).

Kind hearts are here, yet would the tend'rest one

Have limits to its mercy : God has none!
And man's forgiveness may be true and sweet,
And yet he stoops to give it. More complete
Is love that lays forgiveness at thy feet,
And pleads with thee to raise it. Only heaven

Means "crowned", not "vanquished", when it says "forgive".

Thou shalt preserve me from trouble, v. 7. Very wonderful are the ways God takes to deliver His children from distress. When

Queen Mary ruled in England,
Never At a Loss she gave orders near the end of her life for a persecution of the Protestants in Ireland. The commission was entrusted to Dr. Cole, who, on his way, stopped at Chester, where he was waited on by the mayor. He told him his errand in the inn, where he was overheard by its mistress, herself a Protestant. This worthy lady secretly removed the commission papers, and substituted a dirty pack of cards, with the knave of clubs facetiously turned uppermost. Imagine the doctor's chagrin when he unwittingly presented these unexpected documents to the Irish Privy Council! He hastened back to London to get his commission renewed, but in the meantime Queen Mary died, and the Irish Protestants were thus mercifully delivered from a calamity that might have involved irretrievable loss of life. God is never at a loss to find instruments for His purposes, however unlikely they may seem. The experience of this psalm will find thousands of witnesses.

Many sorrows shall be to the wicked, v. 10. There used to be no thistles in Australia, until a Scotchman, in mistaken attachment to the emblem of his race, sent a few seeds out to a friend. He thought it was a sad misfortune that any country should be without a thistle. The seeds could have been stopped on their

Thistles in
Australia