

for this he is condemned to wander homeless, and to die in a foreign land.

Worse than this had been designed by the ruthless fanatics who controlled the church and state of Spain. Two hundred years ago, Matamoros would have been bound to the stake and burnt there, amid the curses and the jibes of Jesuits and Inquisitors. But, now, wakened Europe will not brook so foul and horrible a deed. A fate less startling and awful but not less cruel is designed for the youthful Protestant.

Matamoros was the chief support of his widowed mother. While visiting Gibraltar, the sound of the Sabbath bells led him into a Spanish evangelical church, where the gospel was truly preached and the Word of God duly honored. That day he procured a copy of the New Testament. The sun of Monday morning shone upon Gibraltar, before the thoughtful student had closed the book, to which he had access for the first time. With the study of that Book, the Sun of Righteousness shined into his soul. He became a new man. The truth which he felt to be so precious, he lost no time in quietly telling to others. He knew his peril: the fatal risk he ran should the church authorities discover him and his work. But he counted the cost, and was ready even to die in the cause which he so truly loved. His labours resulted in the conversion of several hundreds of his countrymen, and the formation of small churches in five or six cities. At last he was discovered. He was at once flung into prison, where he lay pining for three long years,—in sickness, hunger, damp, filth, and everything that would tend to break down and kill a high souled young man of delicate frame.

They tried him in their courts and he bore witness bravely for his Saviour; and then, after three years of dreary and killing imprisonment, they condemned him to ELEVEN YEARS IN THE GALLEYS, the worst punishment short of death, ever inflicted on a Spaniard. Eleven years in the galleys for reading the Scriptures and speaking of Jesus Christ, and differing from the Church of Rome as the Bible differs

from her: such were the tender mercies of the Spanish Church and the Spanish Queen, to poor, dying, Matamoros!

Thank God: Protestant Europe was awake and had a voice, and made its voice heard, demanding mercy for the victim of cruel mis-belief. From England, and Scotland, and France, and other lands the cry arose, strong and loud, protesting against the deed of shame. Even Spain, dared not shut the ear to the public opinion of Protestant Europe. Matamoros was spared the horror of the galleys and mercifully allowed to escape with—*banishment for life!* Reader, think of it; remember it. And when you hear bold, bad apostles of a cruel church, plead for improper advantages in these lands, recall what the *mercy* was which Protestant Europe could extort for poor Matamoros! It was *banishment*; nothing more, or less; perpetual exile; separation from friends and home, and all that was dearest on earth. And, yet, the apostles of this cruel creed, will talk of Liberty of Conscience!

Well: Matamoros was driven from his home; poor, with his health hopelessly shattered; with the seeds of fatal disease working in his frame, as the result of these three dreary and dreadful years in prison. God raised up many true friends for him. The Evangelical Alliance aided him bountifully. He went to Lausanne to prosecute the study of theology. His health greatly improved, and it was hoped for some time, that he might be spared to do much work in the Master's Vineyard. He directed evangelistic efforts in various places for the benefit of his fellow-countrymen. But at last, in the midst of hope and usefulness, in the prime of manhood, he died. His death was triumphant, as his christian warfare had been brave. Others have taken hold of the good work in which he was engaged, and it is prospering now as it never did before.

Matamoros had not long passed away, before the thunders of the great revolution were heard in Spain. The day of vengeance and righteous judgment came. Queen Isabella, herself, is now under sentence of perpetual exile. Her power and