

Young People's Department.



"TO THE LIONS!"

FOR CHRIST'S SAKE.



ANY a scene from early days rebukes loudly the easy-going, pampered Christianity of to-day. Here is one. A maiden of Ephesus who has learned of Christ is standing by a brazier which is burning before the image of Diana. She must choose between idolatry and death—idolatry if she consents, death if she refuses, to cast incense upon the flame. A mere motion of the hand will save her life. A refusal to move it, and she will have flung life away.

She refuses; the hand is not raised, the incense is not put upon the flame. The presiding officer, whose duty, when she has refused, is clear, pauses for a moment, reluctant, amazed, grieved. Her lover pleads. His touch falls upon her with the prayer of humanity, shocked at the thought of so fair and harmless a creature's death. He would raise her hand. He would do the deed for her.

Tiers of strangers and acquaintances are around. Every eye is fixed upon her in intense interest and suspense; they hold their breath. There is no indignation upon their faces, no