

creatures in Christ Jesus, it shows itself to be worthy of its Divine Founder.

Then the question arises, Is it true that the Gospel does effect such transformations? Of that truth there is no better example than the apostle Paul. To see a man once filled with insane fury against the followers of Jesus so transformed as to weep over the enemies of the cross, so earnest in preaching the same Gospel he had hated that he ceases not to warn every one with tears; this surely is a mighty evidence of the power of Christianity.

How will you explain it otherwise that a man who had laboured to overthrow the altar should be so changed that he is ready to lay himself upon that altar, if need be, a willing sacrifice? How else will you explain it that he cast off all associations of his past, entered upon a life unparalleled, and went forth to girdle the world with light through his missionary labours? If Saul of Tarsus was not different from Paul the apostle, never was change wrought upon a human heart.

Dr. Hoge.

WILBERFORCE AND THE SCOFFER.

A GENTLEMAN, calling on Wilberforce, found him reading the Bible. He began to rally him for employing his time with that musty old book, remarking that we saw the course of nature going on as usual, and that there was no reason to expect that those future events the Bible spoke of would ever take place.

Wilberforce replied, "It is sufficiently singular that what you have been saying is just the accomplishment of what I have been reading." Then, turning to 2 Peter iii. 3, 4, he read the passage to his visitor, with what effect is not known.

THE PLACE OF TERROR.



On the day after the battle of Jena, the 15th of October, 1806, many of the French soldiery were scouring the country, robbing and demanding money. Between the village of Ranschurtz and a new inn, in a hollow of the road, some of the marauders were overtaken by the enraged peasantry and murdered.

At the same moment a French baggage-waggon came by, with a feeble escort. As soon as these soldiers saw what had happened to their comrades, fearing a similar fate, they cut the traces of the waggon, left it sticking in the road, and fled to relate what had happened.

"Very early in the morning of the 16th of October," relates Govéan, a French officer, "Guignier de Revel sent for me. He was commandant of the third regi-

ment of the Line, in which I was captain of grenadiers, and which was then quartered in Naumburg. He showed me an order from Marshal Davoust, to surround the village of Priesnitz, and, as some French soldiers had been murdered there, to shoot all the inhabitants, with the exception of women and children, and to burn their houses to the ground.

"The commandant was in the highest state of excitement at this cruel order. He threw his sabre on the ground, and exclaimed, 'Have I lived to my present age to see such horrors, and to be intrusted with their execution?' He declared that he would rather break his sword to pieces than burden his conscience with such a bloody deed, and tarnish the French arms with barbarity."

It was difficult for Captain Govéan to pacify his brave commandant, and to convince him that it would be giving a bad example of insubordination, if he dared to oppose so plain a command. With a heavy heart Guignier at last gave the order to march back to Priesnitz.

The village was surrounded. Those of the villagers who were able concealed themselves or escaped. In a moment, however, the soldiers were in the houses. All whom they met were driven out of the village, just as they were—no one knew whither or wherefore. The pastor's son Grossman was among the inhabitants who were driven out. He understood French, and approached the commandant, to ask him what they had done, and what destiny awaited them.

In answer, he received a written proclamation to this effect: "The inhabitants of the village have had the audacity to murder Frenchmen passing through their territory, and have stopped and plundered a transport. It is necessary to make a terrible example. The inhabitants of the aforesaid village, with the exception of old men, women, and children, are all condemned to death, and their houses to be set on fire. Naumburg, October 16th, 1806."

When Grossman understood the state of affairs, and the impending danger, he had a conference with the French officers, in which he forcibly represented the innocence of the inhabitants of Priesnitz, and called their attention to the mistake through which they were to suffer.

Grossman's warm representation made a deep impression on the commandant Guignier de Revel, and he wished to march his battalion off without executing the marshal's orders. He was only prevented from pursuing the plan by his officers making a new proposal. They wished to send a messenger to Naumburg to inform Marshal Davoust that the village of Priesnitz appeared to be innocent of the alleged crime; that there were other villages with somewhat similar names, and that it seemed desirable to suspend the execution of the punishment.

A horse was accordingly brought, and Lieutenant Sico mounted and rode off; but who can depict the terror which was felt during his absence? At seven in the morning the people had been driven out to the spot, since called the Place of Terror, and it would be eleven before Sico could return.