

WILLIAM HUNTER



BY THE RT. REV. THE LORD BISHOP OF RIPON.

THE day was dark, and the gloomy sky
 Frowned on the lad who was doomed to die ;
 The damp of earth and the thought of death
 Made chill his heart and stifled his breath.

And life was strong in each youthful vein :
 To die was hateful, and hateful was pain.
 Yet he would not be false : he was bound to die,
 But he longed for some token of sympathy.

But Heaven denied him a glimpse of sun
 To smile God's smile on what he had done :
 Through gloom he walked to the sullen stake,
 Ready to die for his Master's sake.

'Neath the frown of Heaven, with heart cast down,
 He saw on men's brows the angry frown !
 Brave lad ! he was not afraid to die,
 But he longed for some token of sympathy.

Then wistful he scanned each face in the crowd,
 And with boyish frankness spake aloud ;
 For flesh was weak, and bitter the end,
 So he turned to one, " Ah, pray for me, friend."

XIII. 1.]

But the answer came as hard as the
 That rends the ship as she reels
 " Pray for thee !—I would no more
 For a dog ! " said the churl, as he
 Then the lad lifted up his eyes on
 To the threatening clouds and the
 And his soul outleaped his agony
 As he prayed, " Sun of God, shine
 And the dim clouds parted left and
 And forth came the sunshine, brave
 And shone on his death ; so that
 marvelled much how the gloom had
 Be true to thy God, and thyself, O
 Heed not the things beyond control
 Face frowning men and face frowning
 God will give thee light when thou

* * * Our illustrations have been specially
 CHURCH MONTHLY by S. T. Dadd. The
 the memorial erected to William Hunter
 Essex, runs :—

" To the Pious Memory of William Hunter
 Brentwood, who maintained his right
 Scriptures, and in all matters of faith
 follow their sole guidance. Was
 early age of nineteen by Bishop
 of Queen Mary, and burned at
 spot March xxvi. MDLV. He
 the truth, Sealing it with his blood
 God. Erected by public subscription

On the opposite side the inscription is
 " William Hunter, Martyr, Committed to
 March xxvi. MDLV. Christian reader, learn
 Example to value the privilege of an open
 be careful to maintain it. 'He being
 speaketh.'"

