

THE MANY AGAINST THE FEW.

The few have had a conflict with the many in every attempt towards Reformation since error got the better of truth. This for a long time must uniformly be the case. Therefore, none ought to be discouraged because of the numbers or influence of those leagued in support of any error. The history of the world is replete with information and encouragement on this subject. Truth, fairly presented, and enforced by the good examples of its advocates, has ever triumphed, and will continue to triumph till the victory is complete. "To the law, then, and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." Isa. viii. 20.

"ALMOST THOU PERSUADEST ME TO BE A CHRISTIAN."

"THE son of Herod sat in regal state
 Fast by his sister-queen,—and mid the throng
 Of supple courtiers and of Roman guards
 Gave solemn audience. Summon'd to his bar
 A prisoner came who with no flattering tone
 Brought incense to a mortal. Every eye
 Question'd his brow,—with scowling eagerness,
 As there he stood in bonds. But when he spake
 With such majestic earnestness,—such grace
 Of simple courtesy;—with fervent zeal
 So boldly reason'd for the truth of God,
 The ardor of his heaven-taught eloquence
 Wrought in the royal bosom, till its pulse
 Responsive trembled with the new-born hope
 "Almost" to be a Christian. So, he rose,—
 And with the courtly train swept pompous by.
 —"Almost!"—and was this all, thou Jewish king?
 Thou list'ner to the ambassador of Heaven—
 "Almost persuaded?"—Ah! hadst thou exchange'd
 Thy trappings and thy purple, for his bonds
 Who stood before thee,—hadst thou drawn his hope
 Into thy breast, even with the sharpest spear
 Of martyrdom,—how great had been thy gain!—
 —O, ye!—who linger while the call of God
 Bears witness with your conscience, and would fain,
 Like king Agrippa, follow,—yet draw back
 Awhile into the vortex of the world,
 Perchance to swell the hoard which Death shall sweep
 Like driven chaff away,—'mid stranger bands,—
 Perchance, by Pleasure's deadening opiate lull'd,
 To false security,—or by the fear
 Of man constrain'd,—or mov'd to give your sins
 A little longer scope,—beware!—beware!
 Lest that dread "almost" shut you out of heaven." L. H. S.

TERMS.

THE CHRISTIAN GLEANER—will be published in Monthly Numbers, each 24 pages—twelve numbers to constitute a volume.—The price of a volume, Five Shillings, payable before the delivery of the second Number, or Six Shillings afterwards.