

were too-tallers every man of them. For says Paul; And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. (i. Cor. 9, 25.)

These games had their rules and regulations which all were required to observe who contended for the prize; and if any were guilty of a violation of them, he not only lost the prize but was also severely punished. And this will be the case with those who do not obey the laws of God; they will not merely miss of heaven, but go down to hell.—“And if a man strive for the mastery, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.” (2 Tim. ii, 5.)

Now if the persons who contended for the prizes in these games, made all these exertions for the sake of a wreath of mere fading flowers: how much more anxious and earnest should the Christian be, who is offered a “crown of glory that fadeth not away” as the reward of his faithfulness and success in the spiritual contest. “Now they,” that is, the candidates in the Grecian games. “do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.” (1 Cor. ix, 25.)

But lastly these games were celebrated in the presence of vast numbers of spectators. On all sides of the places set apart for these games, seats were erected, and these were generally filled with persons, who were anxiously looking upon those who were contending for the prize. The picture on the following page,

though it is not a correct representation, may serve to give a view of the scenes presented at these games.

The Apostle in the 12th chap. of the Epistle to the Hebrews, makes use of the circumstance of the numerous spectators at the games, to incite his christian brethren to diligence and earnestness in running the heavenly race: “Wherefore seeing that we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.” He here represents to them that all their fathers who had gone before, were looking upon them, and with more interest, if possible, than the spectators at the Grecian games.

Now our young readers will understand that our object is to remind *them* that they are running a race, or a race is set before them; the prize is a crown of glory that fadeth not away; but those who come short will be cast down to hell. How earnestly then should they strive to run this race, so that they may obtain the prize at last.

#### VICTORY IN DEATH.

A boy, ten or twelve years of age, who was sinking to the grave by a painful illness, was asked by a missionary, ‘Would you like to go to heaven when you die?’ ‘Yes, sir.’ ‘Why?’ ‘Jesus Christ there good people there, God there.’ ‘Do you love Jesus Christ?’ ‘Yes, sir.’ ‘How do you think to get to heaven if you are sinful?’ ‘Jesus Christ take away all my sin.’ He had been taught in a mission school, and left pleasing evidence that he was safe for eternity.