

long in bringing in the name of his master. He is "not ashamed to own his Lord," and always has Christ as the object in view.

What is our object in teaching? Is it to impart knowledge, to argue over theological difficulties, to appear wise before our class? Paul preached Jesus and because he did that he never lacked for a congregation. Oh let our words be simple and our hearts and lips aglow as we tell to the children "the old story of Jesus and his love."

II. THE RESULT.—A great addition to the church took place, God honored his servant, by giving him some of the Jews, and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few." We ought to look for and pray for results, and if we are faithful and true, we shall assuredly reap the fruit of our sowing.

III. MORE OPPOSITION.—Not content with not believing themselves these Jews (v. 5) sought to create trouble for those who had accepted Paul's message in faith. Bad men are always stirred up to oppose that which is good and for the benefit of humanity. They were "moved with envy," and there is nothing too bad for any man to accomplish in the name of that sin.

Socrates says that envy is the daughter of pride, the author of murder and revenge, the beginner of secret sedition, and the perpetual tormentor of virtue.

Who among us are entirely free from this baneful and blighting sin. We find it in Cain, the proto-murderer who slew his brother at the instigation of envy.

We find it in the dark and gloomy and revengeful spirit of Saul, who under the influence of envy, plotted for years the slaughter of David. We find it in the King of Israel when he longed for the vineyard of Naboth and shed his blood to gain it. And it was envy that perpetrated that most atrocious murder ever planned in hell or executed on earth, on which the sun refused to look and at which nature gave signs of abhorrence by the rending of the rocks,—the crucifixion of Christ, for the evangelist tells us, that for envy the Jews delivered our Lord.

Envy is self-destroying in the person who gives way to it. The story is told of a celebrated Grecian athlete who became so famous for his victories in the public games that his fellow-citizens reared a statue in his honor. So

strong was the feeling of jealousy and envy which this act excited in the breast of one of the hero's rivals, that he went out every night in order if possible to destroy the monument, after repeated efforts he moved the pedestal and it fell, and in its fall it crushed him.

And unfortunately the church of God is not exempt from this sin. It has a hold in the hearts of professing Christians of different denominations. If one division is more honored or prosperous, are not all the rest too apt to look on with envious eyes because theirs is likely to be diminished. And if one servant be more successful than another, oh the pitiful and pitiless avalanche of innuendoes and detractions hurled at his head, in the vain attempt to stay his progress till we catch up to or surpass him. May God deliver us all from cardinal sin.

These "lewd fellows of the baser sort" also attacked Jason whose hospitality Paul and his companions were enjoying. Not being able to find Paul, they brought Jason and certain brethren to the magistrates saying, "These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also, and they all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar saying that there is another king,—one Jesus." Thus again as at Philippi, another than the real reason is charged against the missionaries.

Let us learn again from this incident not to be discouraged or give up because of difficulties in our path. Suppose Paul had been as easily turned aside from his purpose as some of us are. When at Philippi he was scourged and imprisoned and put in the stocks, suppose he had given away to discontent and faithlessness. What would have become of us? Christianity is nothing if it is not fearlessly aggressive, and the promulgators and teachers of it must expect opposition. The real time to be discouraged is when there is no fighting and everything seems to be going smoothly.

Another point we may find is that even the enemies of Christ's cause cannot speak of it without suggesting valuable truth. When the crowd round the Cross jeered at the dying Saviour they said—"He saved others, Himself He cannot save," little thinking what comfort and cheer these true words would ever bring to the hearts of His disciples. And when these Jews shouted out before the magistrates that Paul and his companions had