

rapidly away the doomed vessel, and the ship all the while rushing on through the troubled sea, with the shrieks, cries, and exclamations of the despairing passengers, form a scene that has never been surpassed. It fills with terror the imagination, at the same time that it agonises the heart. One hundred and four human beings, out of the hundred and sixty-one that were on board, are yet unaccounted for.

The removal of Mr. Winton, who was in the vigour of youth, and whose past trials had fitted him for a tropical climate, is another severe blow to the afflicted and bereaved Jamaica mission. But we dare not complain. He and his wife were in the path of duty. They were going to the work of the Lord in a place where their labours were much needed. The Lord permitted that awful occurrence to happen, and saw meet to make it the means of terminating the earthly career of His servants. He was present on that dreadful night to comfort and to claim His own; and from that blazing ship the way to the celestial mansions was as open and as direct as it is from the still bed-chamber. But, ah! the lesson, which the event reads to us, is solemn and impressive. Above all other cries we hear the Voice which says, "Be ye also ready, for, in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh." Never did we see Mr. Winton in such health and spirits as he was when we parted with him only a few days before; and we can scarcely realise the thought that he and his young wife are sleeping at the bottom of the Ocean, and that we shall not see them again till the sea shall be commanded to give up its dead. Such an event shows us the great care which the Lord has hitherto taken of our missionaries in their goings backwards and forwards on the stormy deep. But assuredly it calls for deep humiliation and prayer before God, and it should prompt in the bosoms of all, interested in the Jamaica mission, the inquiry, "Lord, wherefore dost Thou contend with us?" We earnestly invite all, who shall read this account, whilst they sympathise with and pray for all whom this conflagration has bereaved and saddened, specially to implore God to take pity on the Jamaica churches, to aid and comfort His servants who are there striving to teach the people, and to whom this event will indeed send heavy tidings, and to raise up right-hearted and devoted men, who shall offer themselves to supply the destitute congregations in that interesting and important island.—*Abridged from the Missionary Record of the United Presbyterian Church.*

ORIGINAL POETRY.

MARTYRDOM OF POLYCARP.

This venerable martyr, supposed to be the angel of the church of Smyrna mentioned in the Revelation, was a disciple of the Apostle John, 74 years bishop of Smyrna, and suffered at an extraordinarily advanced age, A. D., 167. Being judged by the proconsul, who condemned him, to reproach Christ and live, he made the ever memorable and apostolic reply. "Eighty and six years have I served Him, and He hath never wronged me; and how can I blaspheme my King, who hath saved me?" After he had been bound to the stake, and the pile had been kindled, it is said that "the flame, forming the appearance of an arch as the sail of a vessel filled with wind, was as a wall of fire round about the body of the martyr which was in the midst, not as burning flesh, but as gold or silver refined in the furnace." Seeing the flames ineffectual to destroy him, the enraged heathen ordered the confector,* a kind of execu-

* Originally an officer in the Roman games, whose business was to despatch any beast that was dangerous. *Ed. Presb.*

tioner, to approach and plunge his sword into the martyr's body. For other interesting particulars see Milner's Church History.

While all around him stood dismayed,
Fearless the martyr saint surveyed
The stake, the chain, the fire;
His firm resolve no threats could break,
No tortures his strong courage shake,
He knew his Lord would not forsake,
Nor feared the tyrant's ire.

"Now four-score years and six" he said,
"My Sovereign Lord have I obeyed;
Him shall I now deny?
His promises have all been true,
His tender mercies ever new,
My Lord will still sustain me through;
I tremble not to die."

The judge was filled with fiendish rage;
And, heedless of his tottering aze,
They to the stake him bind;
The curling flames around him rise,
He upward lifts his prayerful eyes,
His thoughts are all of paradise,
Where Jesus he will find.

But, lo! a miracle of power,
The flames, so eager to devour,
Were from their prey restrained;
A circling wall of liquid fire
Around him rose still higher and higher,
While, safe from its destroying ire,
Uninjured he remained.

With frenzied rage the heathen saw;
God's people gazed with pious awe,
And silently adored;
Till the confector's ruthless spear
Released that spirit, now so near
Its final resting-place, to appear
In glory with the Lord.

How heavenly, how divine, that faith
Which even in the pangs of death
Its victims can sustain!
That bliss, O how ineffable,
Where only saints and angels dwell,
Whose hope the martyr's breast can swell
With triumphs mid his pain!
Kingston, February 23, 1852.

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