

is to be accounted for partly by the Oriental fondness for perfumes, which was naturally transferred to the deity, partly on ground of purifying the sanctuaries by fumigation, and partly, as here, that the priest may put a thin veil of smoke between himself and the divine

glory. To the ingredients of incense prescribed in Ex. 30 : 34, the Jews of later days added myrrh, cassia, spikenard, saffron, costus, mace, and cinnamon, and a herb, kept a secret, which caused the smoke to rise in a straight column.

APPLICATION

An atonement, v. 6. "Do you see what this is, sir?" said a woman carrying in her hands a quantity of wet sand. "Yes, but I do not know exactly what you mean by it." "Ah, sir", she said, "that's myself and the multitude of my sins which cannot be numbered". The minister caught her despondent thought through her singular illustration, and then asked her where she had obtained the sand. "At the Beacon." "Go back, and take a spade with you and dig until you have raised a big mound, shovel it as high as you can and then leave it. Stand back upon the shore and see the effects of the waves upon it." She understood his meaning; she perceived that, just as the irresistible tide would wash away all the grains of sand she had laboriously piled up, so God had made an atonement for all her sins and every one was blotted out. We may not be able clearly to understand how God has done it all; but He means us to believe that it is done. "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isa. 1 : 18).

A sin offering, v. 9. Among the bright annals of human heroism, are many incidents where one man has not hesitated to lay down his life for his friend. In the Indian Mutiny the eldest son of Sir Henry Havelock had been left wounded on the battle field. It was known where he was; but any attempt to reach him seemed certain to be fatal, because of the Sepoy bullets. Nevertheless a young soldier, whose wife and child had been locked up in Lucknow, undertook the perilous task. The bullets whistled about his ears, one struck his arm and shattered it, but he would not turn back. He found the object of his search, and, although hit again, would not desert him until he had brought him out of danger. But

the wounds he had received were mortal, and he had delivered another at the cost of his own life. Such self-sacrificing heroism is praiseworthy beyond words; yet the love of Jesus was greater even than this. For He not only suffered the persecutions of Jewish priests and Roman soldiers, He not only sacrificed His life for the truth that was to redeem men, but He actually became a sin offering on their behalf. "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Cor. 5 : 21).

Confess...all the iniquities, v. 21. There may seem to be many disadvantages from the frank confession of a mistake or a sin, but to acknowledge a wrong is in the end safer than to conceal it. Hidden sin will sooner or later bring its inevitable judgment. Some time ago, a passenger train plunged through a bridge into the deep stream beneath. On investigation, it was discovered that there was a flaw in one of the girders. When it was being moulded, some air had inadvertently been admitted to the centre of the shaft and formed a cavity. Outside all was well, no defect was even suspected. Yet when it was put to the test, when the heavy weight came upon it, the hidden flaw was revealed and a terrible disaster ensued. A hidden sin is a moral weakness of incalculable evil. Therefore, though it may be unpleasant to do so, it is much better to frankly confess it and have it removed, than to harbor that which may one day ruin the soul.

A fit man, v. 21. The secret of success is to fit one's position. There is nothing more unhappy or disheartening than to be the square peg in the round hole. To be a fit man for the Lord's service requires one indispensable qualification. One must love the work. The Persians proved poorer soldiers than the

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How Labor
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