

ready agents in sinful men. Words of wickedness, deeds of blood, diabolical atrocities, all the horrors which make sick the heart, he can speedily accomplish by his willing instruments. He found tongues on earth wherewith to mock the Son of God, lips to spit upon Him, hands to nail Him to the cross.

How unmistakably are sinners the goods of Satan, how absolutely does he proclaim possession. Yea he brands them, like cattle, with irons heated in infernal fires. Deceit, pride, hatred, lust, drunkenness, ungodliness, unbelief, and the thousand other sins which emphasize the words of Jesus, "Ye are of your father, the devil," proclaim his awful ownership.

Not only are sinners the goods of Satan, he also keeps them "in peace," that is to say, in undisturbed possession. So far as man is concerned there can be no effective resistance of his power, there can be no rebellion against his empire. Some of his subjects may often writhe and smart under the torture of his reign, and groan beneath the awful incubus, but only to sink back in despair, into more utter bondage.

Others manifest that they are held in peace by hugging the chains that bind them; and, shouting like frenzied madmen, "We are our own, who is lord over us?" So palpably does he keep his goods in peace, that some who are his most abject slaves actually declare that he himself is a shadow and his kingdom a myth. The unbelief which declares that there is no devil is the best evidence that he holds his goods in peace. How could there be more undisputed possession than that which is thus implied? Searedness of conscience, hardness of heart, scornful mockery of Divine truth, inveterate worldliness, callous indifference, all proclaim how absolutely sinners are Satan's goods. Oh, sinners! Harden your hearts by the deceitfulness of sin, shut your eyes to the realities of your state, stop your ears against the Divine testimony, plunge into every revelry that earth can give, adorn yourselves with all that wealth can buy, feast yourselves with every delicacy, quaff the sparkling cup, whirl in the joyous dance, give the rein to all your hearts' desire, still behold your horrid king, the father of lies, the murderer from the beginning, and remember you are his goods whom he keeps in peace.

BUT THE SAVIOUR IS STRONGER THAN THIS STRONG MAN.

He comes upon the usurper, overcomes, disarms, and spoils him.