

help. "It isn't every despoiler of warnings that gets safe up out of the ditch."

There was evidently more than met the ear under these simple words.

"One for him and two for me, I suppose, brother Bob," said another of the men, slyly; and turning to the rescued passenger, who was considering how best to reward his preservers for their timely help—"He's a sort of preacher, you see, master, and you've given him a text that does his heart good, and makes for his way of thinking. He holds there's only one way to heaven, and that 'no road' means what it says, and if folks go climbing up some other way, belike they'll find the gap too wide, and come down into a worse pit than this, and no strong fellows near to haul them out again."

"Is it so? Is that what you think, my friend?" asked the gentleman, in surprise.

"I read it in the Book of God, sir," replied the man, fixing a fearless eye upon the questioner's face, and respectfully taking off his cap. "It is said of the Lord Jesus Christ, 'Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.' And the Lord Himself declared, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by Me.' He may come of himself to a judge who is obliged to condemn, but only in Jesus Christ can he come to a Father who loves to forgive. The Lord Jesus in my place, punished for my sins, I in His place, by believing His words and works, accepted before God. That's the gospel, sir; let poor sinners bless Him for it."

"There!" said Robert's brother, triumphantly, "didn't I tell you he could preach when he has a mind?"

"But cannot we do our best in this world, and trust God's mercy for the next?" asked the gentleman, who still stood among them shaking and rubbing his be-mired clothes.

"God help thee to learn that there's 'no road' that way!" said the Christian man, earnestly. "There is but one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. 'Having therefore boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,' 'having an high-priest

over the house of God,' all is done for us, all is ready."

"What are you, friend?" asked the gentleman, with interest; "you have been well educated, I think."

"I am a humble follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, sir, and except for reading and writing I never had teaching from any one else. He saved me, and taught me, and I believe there's no book like the Bible for making the right sort of scholars. Long I tried to find salvation, and groped about in darkness and ignorance. I know very well what I say about 'no road' by the way of human doings, and moral conduct, and formal observances, and fanciful mercy to our infirmities. But at last I learned God's great grand mercy in Jesus Christ, without demeaning His own holy character, and it was enough. I rest there till I rest in heaven."

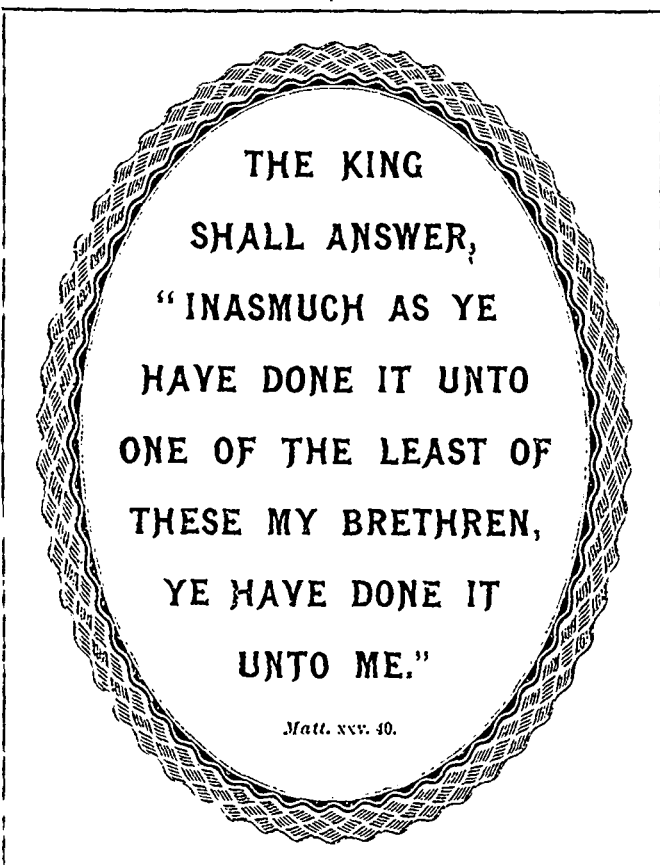
"I find," said the gentleman, "that I have lost my purse down in that ditch. If your men find it, and it was not empty, oblige me by dividing its contents among you."

"My mates shall have it, sir, if you choose," said Robert, respectfully; "for myself I will venture to ask a higher mark of your favour. It is that if you have not yet found the Lord Jesus Christ your Saviour, you will regard the notice God's word writes up over every attempt to reach heaven by any other way, and seek Him the only 'way,' 'the new and living way.' 'I am the door of the sheep,' He said. 'Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the

same is a thief and a robber,' and I venture to add, deserves the fall he'll get."

"I am not likely to forget the lesson I have received this morning, my friend, and whether or not I have found a Saviour, I heartily bid you God-speed in your mission of love in His name among your rough companions."

"Thank you kindly, sir. I am glad to say that here and there among our bands of working men there are those who love the Lord Jesus, and we talk as you've heard just now, and we know that, clumsy and awkward though we be, God's word shall never 'return unto Him void,' but 'shall accomplish that which He pleases,' and 'prosper in the thing whereto He sent it.'"



Matt. xxv. 40.