

is followed in prayer by a boy of fifteen years, who earnestly prays that "He who holdeth the King's heart in His hand to turn it whithersoever He will," may touch with pity the hearts of the rulers, that their parents may no longer be unjustly detained in prison. At length another boy rises and earnestly exhorts his companions that the meetings which have been established in the power of God may not be allowed to go down, even though the fathers and mothers are imprisoned, but that the children may continue to gather in the strength of Him who said "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

A few moments of reverent silence follow, rudely broken by the entrance of three men. One, the informer, a short man with low forehead, high cheek bones, and a massive jaw, steps forward, and says :

"May it please your honors, for three weeks I have watched this place, and every Sabbath these," with a wave of his hand toward the children, "meet here and preach and pray." The man to whom the others look for orders is tall and slim ; his black hair falls over a narrow brow, under which and near together are small, steel gray eyes ; his dress proclaims him a minister of the Established Church. He glances sternly at the children, but only a few of the youngest show any fear, then with a scornful gesture he bids the other man, who is an officer to "take them." It is an easy task ; those children have been well taught, and from their infancy have imbibed the principles of peace. The officer marches them before him rapidly down the street. With motherly care the older girls look after and comfort the little ones, but the flashing eyes and indignant bearing of some of the older boys show a spirit which is only kept down by strong self-control. But their march is not to be unmolested ; a rabble of rude men and boys soon gather about them with profane words and coarse jests, but they are not satisfied with mere insults, and soon begin to pelt them with mud and

stones. The fair and modest Ellen Evens, who offered prayer in the children's meeting, is roughly seized by a young miscreant, and in his endeavors to escape her scarf is torn from her shoulders and her bonnet knocked off. Wm. Caton now places himself between them, and receives the blow designed for the young girl. A small boy is knocked down and kicked before he can rise. The clergyman, by his silence, encourages the mob, which grows more daring, and it is a relief when the house of correction is reached, and the children hurried within its walls.

(To be continued.)

LANGUAGE.

Read at the Young Friends' Association of Purchase, N. Y.

There is so much hurry and bustle in this fast age, and men communicate with one another in abbreviation to such an extent that it is a matter of thoughtful consideration what the influence of all this will be upon language. People who think and act with railroad speed must have words to correspond. The tendency to abridge speech, to coin one word which shall express the whole thought—or cover the whole act, whether it be a business transaction or a social enjoyment, is greatly encouraged by the modes of expression. In the general diffusion of knowledge there is less training of the mind to habits of correct thought and beauty of expression than formerly. Education must be practical, and few have the firmness and singleness of purpose to pursue a course of mental culture such as half a century ago was required of every man who aspired to scholarly distinction. The cant phrases and words more expressive than elegant, which disfigure much of the conversation of mixed social gatherings, doubtless have their origin in the sensational literature with which our land is flooded, and in places of amusement, where each performer strives to outdo the other in ridiculous and absurd sayings, and the audience take