


The YEARS of the wicked shall be shortened.
Proverbs x. 27.

"CRUSHED."

FROM REAL LIFE.

ONLY one word, but it tells of a life "lived out", as a tale that is told. Yes, it was but too true, the sad news that we heard. Hale and strong, the Railway man stood once more in his accustomed place, to couple up the train. There is a little delay; at last they come. Alas! he is not ready to couple them; he had turned aside for a moment, so he is found not watching; he has taken a step too far, and is "crushed" to death in a moment between the buffers. Oh! friend, what a sad picture, not ready, not watching, but taking God's holy Name in vain; the very last words he was heard to utter were curses. He was "called into" the presence of God uttering unholy words.

Can you read these words without a shudder?

"Oh, can we say we are ready, brother,
Ready for the soul's bright hom;
Say, will He find you and me still watching,
Waiting, waiting, when the Lord shall come?"

I pray you, my fellows, "look quickly," and see to your soul's salvation "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." You have no excuse to plead for still living in sin, for "the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John i. 7). Will you tell Jesus you have sinned, for "if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John i. 9).

"Behold, the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John i. 29), and again, "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold! now is the day of Salvation" (2 Cor. vi. 2).

One more lesson which we must learn from this sad history is, when the buffers were examined, these words were found written in pencil on them:—



The words are still there. Who wrote them? God knows, we cannot tell. I think we may well re-echo the words of a Railway man, who told me the story: "God bless the man who wrote those warning words on the buffer. He has delivered his own soul" (Ezekiel iii. 19).

Dear friends! God's voice is calling to you once again through these words. The sands of time are running out. We stand upon the verge of time. Eternity is drawing nigh. The King Himself will soon appear.

Pause a moment. When the pale messenger whose name is "death" shall knock at your door, will there be another dark messenger follow close to the Death angel's footsteps? His name was "Death," and Hell followed with him (Rev. vi. 8).

What is your hope? If we have hope only in this life, we are of all men the most miserable. God's word says it.

Can you say, Jesus is my Saviour, my all in all? Should Jesus call us, we can answer, "Come, Lord Jesus." We are only "waiting for the coming of our Lord" (1 Cor. i. 7).

Again I would say, "Tarry not," dear fellows, but "Come." "Jesus ready stands to greet you."

"The free gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. vi. 23).

But remember, "The wages of sin is death" (Rom. vi. 23)

ETERNITY.

Lord, let it alone this YEAR also.
Luke xiii. 8.