

## THE THIEF AND THE CROSS.

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LUKE XXIII., vs. 42, 43, 44.

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IN this chapter we have an account of one of the most wonderful events that ever came to pass on this earth ; an event that was purposed in the past eternity—an event that was looked for in this world since the fall—an event that was accomplished in the fullness of time, and that will be remembered throughout the endless ages of the eternity that is to come ; we mean the death of Christ.

In close connection with this death, we have in the words of our text, that which we may call one of the most triumphant acts of our Lord's earthly sojourn. For, just as the rays of the setting sun exceed in loveliness all its mid-day splendour, so is this dying act of our Lord's, His mercy and His grace, His love and His truth, His divinity and His humility, shine forth with the richest lustre.

In considering the passage before us, we shall, depending on the aid of the Holy Spirit, notice (1), The person who prayed to Christ ; (2) The prayer he offered, and (3) The answer he got.

I. Then he who prayed. Who was he and what was he ? We read that he has a thief ; in other words, a highwayman, a robber, a breaker of the laws of God and of man ; and here