

Was it long in coming? No, soon the executioner's axe did its work, and the spirit of the Apostle was with God.

Is there a crown for us too? See verse 8.

Who shall obtain it? Those who like S. Paul love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

HYMN for October—Ch. Hymn 363, or A. and M. 231.

### DISCOURAGED.

INSTEAD of discouragement from failure, we should be pressed by it more closely to the heart of Jesus, sadder but wiser, and made more secure by the painful experience than ever before. Let the very same moment which brings the consciousness of trespass, bring also the sense of confession, pardon, and inward cleansing from the sin out of which the sinning sprang.

This instantaneousness of restoration is the divine method of security from the repetition of failure. Look for a moment at the contrary course, as too often practised by the Christian. He will, early in the day, we will say, fall into trespass by an unguarded word or unsubdued temper. It brings a cloud between him and God. Instead of an instantaneous confession and the immediate restoration of full communion, he remains under the cloud. Satan always has some dominion over an unhappy child of God, though he cannot conquer a rejoicing one. Soon this very consciousness of distance lays him open to fresh failure, and by the time he comes to a season of special prayer, he is so far off that prayer is an effort, and coming to God a formal act, instead of the joyous natural rebound of his soul. Immediate restoration from the first trespass would have so fully brought again full communion that no other failure in all probability have ensued.

We should commence each day in a sense of cloudless fellowship with God, with no shade, not the faintest shadow, between our soul and the great Father of our spirits. Should any cloud intervene, its instantaneous removal will restore to us that "walk

in the light" which involves uniform victory.

It was the homely saying of the most successful modern missionary on record, when asked the secret of his constant communion with God and consequent power with men; "When I come to God to pray I do not have to clear away a heap of rubbish first; I never let it accumulate, and so I live always in the presence of the King!"

Stop and think. What you are to be will depend upon what you do. Your words, and thoughts, and deeds are not fragile and perishable, but permanent and enduring. Do no wrong. Battle for the right. Help and bless humanity. Honor and obey the Author of your being and your blessings.

Be not an idler. Work and win. It is not genius but toil that is the creator of utilities. Great characters in history are always miracles of industry. Butler put twenty years on his Analogy, and the work is immortal. Rittenhouse, who began to calculate eclipses on his plow handles, could not fail of eminence. To-morrow is the day in which idle men work and fools reform. Let your theatre and time of action be to-day.

Seek to be an intelligent worker. Read books and papers. Cultivate and discipline the mind. Seek the society of thinkers. Aim at eminence in the arts and sciences. The paths along which Franklin walked, or Webster, or Henry Clay, are still open to willing feet. Enter and walk therein. Advance to the front. If you do not sow and plant now, you cannot expect a rich harvest by and by. Up and be patient. Sow good