

"As thou knowest, I have been in Jerusalem ; there hath been there a great persecution of them that believe on the Crucified One. Many are slain ; others are in prison, and others still are fled."

The face of Ananias grew white in the fading light. "Who hath caused these things to be done?"

"They that slew Jesus of Nazareth, and who will yet accomplish the destruction of all that believe on him," answered Simon bitterly.

"Hast thou forgotten that the Christ is set down at the right hand of Jehovah?" cried Ananias. "Surely he will not suffer our foot to be moved."

"He hath already suffered Stephen to be killed with stones. He hath suffered others of the disciples to be scourged and imprisoned. He hath suffered babes also to be left desolate, and little children to wail for food. But the destroyers wax fat and flourishing ; they are not moved."

"So hath it ever appeared," said Ananias. "Yet is the Lord mindful of his own." Then, after a pause, he added, "We are at peace, thanks be to Jehovah, for there is no one in all Damascus who would lift up a hand against us—who also walk blameless according to the law. Let us send word to the smitten ones that they come hither ; here shall they find refuge."

"I have not yet told thee the worst," said Simon, dejectedly. "A certain Saul of Tarsus, a Pharisee taught of Gamaliel, and most bitter against the Christ, hath come hither to Damascus with the intent to carry away in chains to Jerusalem every least disciple of the