

*The condition of man as a Sinner, and the means of his recovery by the cross of Jesus Christ, represented in a Figure.*

Suppose a large grave-yard surrounded by a high wall, with only one entrance, which is by a large iron gate, which is FAST BOLTED. Within these walls are thousands and tens of thousands of human beings, of all ages and of all classes, by one epidemical disease, tending to the grave; the grave yawns to swallow them, and they must all die. There is no balm to relieve them—no physician there. They *must* perish. This is the condition of man as a sinner. All have sinned, and the soul that sinneth shall die.

While man was in this deplorable state, *Mercy*, the darling of Deity, came down and stood at the gate, looked at the scene and wept over it, exclaiming, “O that I might enter—I would bind up their wounds—I would relieve their sorrows—I would save their souls!”

While mercy stood weeping at the gate, an embassy of angels commissioned from the court of Heaven to some other world, passing over, paused at the sight; and seeing Mercy standing there, they cried, “Mercy, Mercy, can you not enter? Can you look upon this scene and not pity? Can you pity and not relieve?” Mercy replied, “I CAN see,” and weeping she added, “I can pity, but I cannot relieve.” “Why can you not enter?” “O,” said Mercy, “Justice has barred the gate against me, and I cannot, must not unbar it.”

At this moment Justice himself appeared, as it were to watch the gate. The angels inquired of him, “Why will you not let mercy in?” Justice replied, “My law is broken, and it must be honored. Die THEY or JUSTICE must!”

At this, there appeared a form among the angelic band, like unto the Son of God, who, addressing himself to Justice, said, “What are thy demands?” Justice replied, “My terms are stern and rigid. I must have sickness for their health—I must have ignominy for their honor—I must have death for life. *Without the shedding of blood there is no remission.*” “Jus-