

all dipping them—sprinkling was not in use; *be drowned.*" And drowned they were, "without mercy," as the edict threatened they should be. Felix Mantz, a learned and godly preacher of the gospel, leading the van of the martyr-host. Germany followed the example of Switzerland, emulating her savageness. The persecution reached the height of demoniacal brutality in the Netherlands.

The number of Baptist martyrs in the sixteenth century has not been reckoned. In some places they were swept away in masses. Six hundred were put to death in one town in Alsace. Historians tell with horror of *two hundred and eighty-eight* Protestant sufferers in England during the reign of Queen Mary—and truly it was horrible,—but they keep out of sight the still more startling fact that *ten times* that number of Baptists sealed the truth with their blood in different parts of Europe.

The sufferers were of all classes—the rich and the poor—the learned and the illiterate—aged men and women—fathers and mothers—young men and maidens—pastors, preachers, deacons, members, and hearers; any, the slightest connection with a Baptist Church, was deemed sufficient ground for the sentence of death.

All kinds of cruelties were inflicted on them. They were cast into filthy, under-ground dungeons, with nothing but the bare ground to lie on, and nothing to cover them. They were tortured to the utmost extremity of endurance. The manner of death varied. Some were drowned; some were beheaded; some were strangled; some were roasted alive; some were burnt. In many instances, their heads were stuck on poles, and their bodies left to rot on the gallows. Sometimes they were led to public death; on other occasions the sentence was executed in prison and in the silence of the night, lest the people should express sympathy for the martyr.

We may not undertake to defend every position these good men assumed, or to justify every measure they adopted. But it is undeniably evident that they suffered for spiritual religion.