

he inflicted on the innocent, and the persons he put to death without form or process. In short, he seems to have been a man that exercised excessive cruelty during all the time of his government. (Luke xiii. 1.) He was finally recalled and banished, and died an exile—probably by suicide.

The character of Pilate renders more remarkable the fact, that when Jesus was arraigned before him, he was not anxious to avoid trying him (Luke xxiii. 47), but he once and again in the most solemn and impressive manner, even in the presence of his malicious and blood-thirsty persecutors, declared his conviction of his perfect innocence. (Luke xxiii. 14. John xix. 6.) He even remonstrated with them on the iniquity and unreasonableness of their conduct, and would fain throw upon them the whole responsibility of the deed they were about to perpetrate. This they assumed in the most dreadful imprecation ever uttered by human lips. (Matt. xxvii. 25.) Pilate moved probably by a tear of losing his office (John xix. 12), notwithstanding his full conviction of his innocence, scourged him, and then resigned him to the hands of the enraged multitude to be crucified.

He directed the form of inscription which was placed on the cross; and when the Jews would persuade him to alter the phrasology, so as to represent him claiming to be King of the Jews, and not as being so in fact, Pilate, conscious probably of having already sacrificed justice to expediency or popularity, peremptorily refused to do it. (John xix. 19.) He gave Joseph the privilege of removing the body from the cross, and placing it in his own tomb, and at the solicitation of the Jews he appointed a guard to protect it from violation. (Matt. xxvii. 57-66.)—

#### Consecration.

GOD used consecrated lips. Consecration is the secret of power with God. This is not for the few. All the Lord's people may be prophets. The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. God sets high estimate on the speaking of his truth. It has pleased him that men shall be saved by the foolishness of preaching. Power waits to be claimed.

#### Dew Drops.

HERE are seven *Dew-Drops* for the growth of young plants of grace:—

1. Never neglect daily private prayer; and remember that God hears your prayers.

2. Never neglect daily private Bible reading; and remember that God is speaking to you, and you are to believe and act upon what he says.

3. Never let a day pass without aiming to do something for Jesus. Every morning think what Jesus has done for you.

4. If you are ever in doubt as to whether a thing be right or wrong consider whether you can do it in the name of Jesus, and ask God's blessing upon it.

5. Never take your Christianity from Christians, but ask "ourself." How would the Lord have me "t?" and follow him.

6. Never trust your feelings, or the opinions of men, if they conflict with God's Holy Word.

7. In deciding questions of truth and duty, remember that the wrong side has a crafty and powerful advocate in your own heart.

#### Strange Surprise.

How deeply rooted must unbelief be in our hearts when we are surprised to find our prayers answered.

THE presumption lies, not in hoping but in distrusting. How can you be so presumptuous as to doubt the faithfulness of Him who cannot lie! How can you be so presumptuous as to suppose that He knew not all the peculiarities of your case when He said, "Him that cometh unto me, I will in nowise cast out!"

He cares for them because they are his own. He knows what it is to watch over them in summer's drought and in winter's cold; by night as well as day, in sickness as well as in health, in dying hours as well as in living hours.

NEVER begin with obedience—you will never attain it! Begin with faith; and upon faith found this—"He that loveth me, keepeth my commandments."