

granite, and although in a sitting posture, was 92 feet high, and, with the pedestal, about 110 feet.

COATS—"Herodotus describes the Babylonians as wearing a shirt of linen reaching down to their feet. Over this was a woollen gown or tunic shorter than the other, and a hood

or short cape over their head and shoulders. "Coats" are the long undergarment, "hosen", the cape thrown over the head and shoulders for protection from the sun and bound round the head with a cord, and the "hats" are probably the tunic. The linen garments would be very inflammable." (Tristram.)

APPLICATION

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, v. 13. The Hebrew names of the three heroes witness not only to their nationality but also to their religion. Hananiah means "Jehovah hath been gracious"; Mishael, "Who is like God"; and Azariah, "Whom Jehovah aids". Every true Mohammedan, no matter where he may be, or how he may be occupied, or who may be his companions, at the hour of prayer will turn aside for his worship. In like manner, our life and conduct should be such as to leave no doubt in the minds of those about us, that we are followers and servants of the Lord Jesus Christ. Let the British soldier be ashamed of the uniform he wears or the flag he follows, before we shall hide our allegiance to our great and glorious Leader.

Who is that God that shall deliver? . . . our God . . . is able, vs. 15, 17. The way to meet defiance of God is by trust in God. Our battle with God's enemies is not ours alone. God Himself is on our side, and therefore the issue is never doubtful. A cardinal legate was sent from Rome to Augsburg to reason with Luther regarding his rebellion against the pope. Said he, "What do you think the pope cares for the opinions of a German boor? The pope's little finger is stronger than all Germany. Do you expect your princes to take up arms to defend you,—you, a wretched worm like you? I tell you, No! And where will you be then? Where will you be then?" Luther calmly replied, "Where I am now,—in the hands of Almighty God."

But if not . . . we will not serve thy gods, v. 18. When one asked Luther what that service was which pleased God best, he answered, "To hear Christ and be obedient to Him." This is the best and highest service of God. For in heaven He has far better and more

beautiful worship and praise than we can render. "To obey", it was said to Saul long ago, "is better than sacrifice." As soldiers say in time of conflict: "Obedience and keeping to the articles of war,—this is victory." The kind of soldiers our Commander Christ seeks are those who will not turn back, but who, at all hazards, will be faithful and true to Him and His cause.

The form of his visage was changed, v. 19. "Beautiful thoughts make a beautiful soul, and a beautiful soul makes a beautiful face."

Bad, vicious thoughts disfigure both the soul and the face. In the library at Trinity College, Cambridge, there is a very fine statue of Lord Byron. The librarian said to Spurgeon, who was a visitor, "Stand here, sir." He looked and said, "What a fine, intelligent countenance! What a grand genius he was!" "Come here", said the librarian, "to the other side." Looking at the statue from that other side, Spurgeon exclaimed, "Ah! what a demon! There stands a man who could defy the Deity." He had such a scowl and dreadful leer in his face as made him seem capable of any wickedness.

These men . . . were cast into the . . . furnace, v. 21. At Stratford-le-Bow, in the days of Queen Mary, there was once set up a stake for the burning of two martyrs, one of them a lame man, the other blind. Just when the fire was lit, the lame man hurled away his staff, and, turning his head, said to the blind man, "Courage, brother, this fire will cure us both." The suffering Christian may "rejoice in tribulation" by remembering that the trial of our faith, "though it be tried with fire", shall "be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." Death is but the doorway into an endless life of perfect blessedness.

The Kind of
Soldiers

The Face and
the Soul

Cured by Fire