

What are the searching victories of mind—  
 The lore of vanished ages? What are all  
 The trumpeting of proud humanity  
 To the short history of him who made  
 His sepulchre beside the King of Kings?

Yea, among mankind at large the martyrs have a fame higher and purer even than those who may have won the highest earthly honours. The name of John the Baptist is perpetuated with honour, while those of Herod and Pontius Pilate are covered with infamy. The memory of Brown, of Priest-hill, the humble carrier, is treasured in the hearts of thousands, while all the efforts of the great literary leviathan of the 19th century (Sir Walter Scott) and others of similar spirit cannot preserve the memory of Claverhouse from the execration of mankind. And so more real, more true, more heart-felt, is the esteem in which the world holds the names of John Huss and Jerome of Prague, of Ridley and Latimer, of Hamilton and Wishart, and the multitudes who in humble spheres have shed their blood for the testimony of Jesus, than any regard it has for the mightiest earthly conquerors either of ancient or modern times, not to speak of the Neros and Domitians who have filled the highest thrones of earth.

But it is a small matter truly to such to be judged of man. What is the breath of human applause compared with those honours beyond this life to which they are advanced. "After this I beheld, and lo! a great multitude, which no man can number, of all nations and kindreds and people and tongues, stood before the throne and before the lamb, clothed with white robes, and with palms in their hands. And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb, therefore are they before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them and shall lead them into living fountains of waters, and God shall wipe all tears from their eyes.' These words are frequently used as descriptive of the final state of all Christians, and in a degree the words may be justly so applied. But this is not the proper and peculiar design of the passage. All Christians cannot be said to have "come out of great tribulation;" and the best interpreters agree in opinion, that the passage has a special reference to an age of persecution, and was designed to comfort the Church in the midst of severe trials, when many of her members would be called to pass to heaven in a fiery car, by showing the special honours and glories reserved for such. As we then contemplate our departed friends as having joined that white robed company, well may we raise our hearts and voices even in thanksgiving and praise to Him who in grace and mercy has counted them worthy of such a glorious position.

Thirdly. The martyrdom of God's servants brings honour and blessing especially to that portion of the Church thus tried, and to the Church generally. The regiment of an army, that which is chosen for some particularly arduous and dangerous duty, feels that an honour has been conferred upon it, and when it has borne itself nobly in the fatal close, while it mourns for the brave who have fallen, it looks upon its torn banners and its thinned ranks with proud satisfaction as the evidence of the glory of its achievements. Its very losses, when borne in honorable conflict, are the mournful tokens of its blood bought