

He was wounded for our transgressions.—Isaiah liii. 5.

Cancelled and Nailed.

HERE is a beautiful Oriental custom of which I have read, that tells the story of Christ's atonement on the cross very clearly. When a debt had to be settled, either by full payment or forgiveness, it was the custom for the creditor to take the cancelled bond and nail it over the

door of him that had owed it, that all passers by might see that it was paid. Oh, blessed story of our remission! There is the cross, the door of grace, behind which a bankrupt world lies in hopeless debt to the law. See Jesus, our Bondsman and Brother, coming forth with the long list of our indebtedness in His hand.

He lifts it up where God and angels and men may see it, and then as the nail goes through His hand, it goes through the bond of our transgressions to cancel it, forever blotting out the hand-writing of ordinances that were against us, that were contrary to us. He took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross! Come to that cross, O sinner. Not in order that you may wash out your sins by tears, or atone for them by your good works, or efface them by your sophistries or self-deceptions, but come rather that you may read the long, black list that is against you, and be pierced to your heart by sorrow that you have offended such a being; and then, lifting up your eyes, that you may see God turning His eyes to the same cross at which you are looking, and saying, "I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions for

mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins." Sins forgotten by God! What a glorious thought!
—Selected.

Forgiven and Sheltered.

GEORGE III. was a kind-hearted king, and often spoke kindly to one of his stable

boys. When the boy disgraced himself by stealing some oats, the king hearing of it, had the boy brought before him. The poor boy expected to be punished, but the king seeing the boy in tears, and hearing he was sorry, said, "Well, I forgive you;" and then, in the hearing of all, he said, "If any one says a word to you about the oats, tell me." The boy was forgiven, and sheltered from future blame by the king. How this reminds us of what God has done for believers. We are forgiven, sheltered, and defended. "In whom we have redemption . . . even the forgiveness of sins" (Col. i. 14).



We are not rewarded according to the kind or amount of work we do, but according to the *spirit* in which it is done.

CHRIST once *appeared* to put away sin, and now *appears* in God's presence for us, and soon will *appear* in glory with us (Heb. ix. 24-28).

CHRIST as the Apostle (Heb. iii. 1) came from God to speak *to* us; Christ as the High Priest (Heb. viii. 1) has gone to God to speak *for* us.