THE
COTTAGER'S FRIEND,
AND
GUIDE OF THE YOUNG.

THE ESSEX MARTYRS, IN 1555, AND LITTLE CHILDREN PRAYING FOR THEM.

In the year 1555, under Queen Mary, and Bonner, of celebrated memory, Stephen Knight was burned for his Protestantism, at Maldon, in Essex, and John Laurence, at Colchester. Stephen Knight had been a priest, and one of the Black Friars ; but, discovering his errors, he embraced the truth of the Gospel as taught in the New Testament, and steadfastly professed it. When Bonner found that he could not be won by flatteries, nor moved by threats, he procured his degredation from the priesthood, and sentenced him to be delivered to the secular power,—as the Church, forsooth, never persecutes ; she only gives them into the hands of those who will work her will, and carry her sentences into effect. Something of Stephen Knight's principles and character may be gathered from the prayer which he addressed to the Almighty Saviour at the stake.- As recorded by Fox, it was to this effect :—

" O Lord Jesus Christ, for whose love I willingly leave this life, and desire rather the bitter death of his cross, with the loss of all earthly things, than to abide the blasphemy of thy most holy name, or to obey men in breaking thy holy commandment : thou seest, O Lord, that where I might live in worldly wealth to worship a false god, and honour thine enemy, I choose rather the torment of my body, and the loss of this my life, and have counted all things but vile, dust, and naught, that I might win thee ; which death is dearer unto me than thousands of gold and silver. Such love, O Lord, hast thou laid up in my breast, that I hunger for thee, as the deer that is wounded desireth the soil. Send thy holy Comforter, O Lord, to aid, comfort, and strengthen this weak piece of earth, which is empty of all strength of itself. Thou rememberest, O Lord, that I am but dust, and able to do nothing that is good. Therefore, O Lord, as of thine accustomed goodness and love, thou hast bidden me to this banquet, and accounted me worthy to drink of thine own cup amongst thine elect ; even so

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