

minds. No rightly constituted mind can think of the toils, self-denial and sufferings of the great Apostle of the Gentiles, while striving to deliver the world from deadly errors, and lead men to a knowledge of the truth, without being elevated and delighted by the majesty of his character. The same emotions, although in a lower degree, are experienced whenever you contemplate a mind of like qualities labouring for the same god-like ends. There are no portraits from history, so pregnant with instruction for the young, as the representations of those patriots, who, forgetful of self, bravely sacrificed their personal interests for the good of their country; or of those Christian martyrs, "who counted not their life dear" if they could give a full testimony to the truth of the gospel. When the Roman people crowded, as they often did, to the amphitheatre, to see the early Christians die a cruel death, rather than utter one word against the truth, they understood but little of what they saw; but least of all, could they understand the courage of these men. No veteran that ever followed the standards of Rome, possessed a courage like to that which Christianity gave as a new thing to the world. For these soldiers of the cross had not only learned how to die bravely, but in the midst of hatred and scorn, to die meekly, and with love to their enemies burning in their bosom. This was moral courage in one of its grandest forms, and those who have thus witnessed for the truth, in what land or under what circumstances soever, were assuredly true moral heroes. Nor were they defeated as their enemies thought. Such men with their cause and their leader, could not be defeated. They triumphed. Yes, and their triumphal chariot, often one of fire, and kindled by wicked hands was watched over by angels until they reached that world where crowns of glory and palms of victory awaited them.

And yet, of moral courage men can judge but imperfectly. So much depends on motives, which we but partially comprehend, and then, not seldom, its sorest labours have been performed, and its greatest triumphs won, in those obscure corners of life of which history says nothing. We may safely conclude, that in the present life we know but little of many of the wonderful victories of moral courage. Hence, not till the muster roll is made up in heaven will it be known for certain, who were the bravest for the glory of God, and who toiled with the greatest patience;