

Evangelical convictions, whom the baptismal service staggers, or of the surpliced sceptics who declare our Lord's resurrection a myth? Acts of Uniformity are not manufacturers of honest consciences.

Loss, want, and peril marked the future history of the men who would not for the sake of their livings, become liars and knaves. Glorious confessors of the sole supremacy of Christ in the realm of conscience! Their names will be found at last among those "of whom the world was not worthy."

For nine months after his ejection, Alleine preached, and prayed, and visited from house to house, often threatened, but never interrupted. At length he was seized and imprisoned. His trial was a piece of mockery, and as the "bellwether of a naughtie flock" he was heavily fined and condemned to lie in jail till the mulct was paid. His heroic reply to the Judge's sentence was, "Glory be to God, that hath accounted me worthy to suffer for his Gospel."

Though imprisoned and threatened, Alleine was not silenced. Like Bunyan, he improved his imprisonment by writing. It was his custom to send his people a letter once a week, which served for a sermon. Besides this weekly work, he wrote several of his smaller publications while in jail. He also preached from the iron gratings to such as assembled to hear, and often had a large audience. His labours among his fellow prisoners were unwearied. Thus able not only to suffer for Christ's sake, but to work amid the suffering, his prison life was one of contentment and abounding joy. Like Paul and Silas, he and his companions often prayed and sang praises to God, and made the jail walls resound with unwonted strains of holy gladness.

After a twelvemonth's imprisonment, we find him again at large. Without delay he is at his Master's business. Four times did he preach to his old flock the very first Sunday after his release. A month after his liberation, the Conventicle Act came into force. This prohibited all religious meetings not allowed by the Liturgy, or practice of the Church of England, and punished by fine and imprisonment all attendants on such unauthorized assemblies. Many of the Taunton flock were fined and imprisoned. Soon after this Act came into force, Mr. Alleine fell ill, and for eight months was utterly disabled. When but partially recovered, he re-commenced preaching, and ere long was surprised and apprehended in the very act. He was sentenced to jail again "for threescore days." In his feeble state of health, as might have been expected, confinement in a damp, ill-ventilated prison, produced the worst results. Soon after his second liberation, he was stricken down with fever. Paralysis followed. For weeks he could not move a limb or lift a finger. Convulsions and terrific pains then for months alternated with paralysis. After this he rallied somewhat, but it was only the last bright flicker of a dying flame. He was removed to Bath, to try the virtues of its famous waters. But he was past recovery and soon sank very low. The convulsions returned, continuing two days and nights, "not ceasing one hour." On his restoration to consciousness, he had, like John Knox, when on his death-bed, a terrible conflict with Satan. His religious experience all through life had been marvellously unclouded, but at the last, it suffered a brief eclipse. Through grace however, he was brought off triumphant. "Away thou foul fiend! Trouble me not! I am none of thine! I am the Lord's! Christ is mine and I am his!" With such expressions as these on his lips, "the great victorious spirit passed away." It was the death of a martyr as truly