THE SOWER.

Israel were delivered, it is true, on the night of the passover : but from what were they delivered ? Not from the pursuit of Pharoah, but from God's judgment for sin. The blood was sprinkled on the lintel and on the doorposts to bar the way of God's entrance as a judge. It is not *power* that delivers in the passover ; but weakness, *death*, the blood of the Lamb !

The question to the Israelite, on that night, was how God should be stayed from entering his dwelling as a judge. And God showed him that nothing but his trusting to the sprinkled blood of the Lamb, would cause the angel of death to pass over his dwelling. He entered every dwelling, of high and low, of the Egyptians, where the blood was not sprinkled. For "without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin." "For," says the Scripture, (verse 23), "the Lord will pass through to smite the Egyptians : and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel. and on the two side posts, the Lord will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you." Blessed picture of the ground of security, which a simple trust in Christ's blood gives to the chief of sinners! For in the blood of this precious Lamb, God's justice has found its full answer :--- "He was delivered for our offences." "He who knew no sin was made sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."

Can I then, though trembling with a sense of guilt, say, "O God, my trust is only in the blood of the Lamb;" "I seek a refuge only in the blood shed on Calvary?" Then the answer of God to my heart is, "When I see the blood, I will pass over you." What security is this, when God says, "I will pass over !"

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