

their voices now as the waves were closing over them, and after that, although I could not rest, I know that Ahuramazdai, who enabled me to do what I have done to day, will be with me to night." And kissing his mother affectionately he runs quickly down the path towards the temple.

In the Persian Temple at midnight Martes sits silently watching the sacred fire; he remembers how his father has told him that in times past, when the people amidst increasing idolatry knew not what to worship, the great God, Ahuramazdai, sent Zoroaster to teach them that he alone was the "Creator of the earthly and spiritual life, the Lord of the whole universe, at whose hands are all the creatures." "O Ahuramazdai," prays the boy, "make my heart obedient unto thee that thy Divine spirit may work in it and make it pure. Thou heareth the prayers of the good; help me to pray unto thee and serve thee as I ought, that my soul may live with thee forever."

The moon sends its rays between the lofty pillars of the temple, lighting up with a singular radiance the bowed head of the youth. Why does he pray so long, heedless of the slowly dying fire? At length Martes starts up quickly to find himself in darkness. The moon is gone but where is the sacred fire? The fire that has burned so many centuries? It has burned out! O child, what hast thou done! this fire first kindled with a coal from heaven! this fire, the emblem of Ahuramazdai's power and might! To breathe upon it were a crime to be punished with death, and *thou* to whom it was intrusted hast neglected thy duty thus! The poor boy overwhelmed by his feelings, falls fainting across the altar.

LYDIA J. MOSHER.

(Concluded next month.)

We should all think of death as a less hideous object, if it simply untenanted our bodies of a spirit, without corrupting them.—[De Quincy.

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