

ful doctrine, which he not only preached, but showed the same by his life."

During the prevalence of the fatal pestilence known as the "sweating sickness," when many fled from the city to save their lives, he braved the danger and steadfastly ministered to his flock. On the accession of Mary, Ridley was deposed from office, and, with Cranmer and Latimer, was, as we have already narrated, thrown into the Tower. During the famous Oxford disputation his critical knowledge of Greek enabled him to correct many attempts to pervert the meaning of ancient writers. But it availed not to avert a fate already foredoomed. When the death sentence was pronounced, Ridley calmly replied to his judges, "Although I be not of your company, yet I doubt not that my name is written in another place, whither this sentence will send us sooner than we should have come by the course of nature."

During his last imprisonment he was deprived of most of his books, and denied the use of pen, ink, or paper; but in his zeal for study he cut the lead from the lattice of his windows, and wrote on the margin of the few books left him. From his prison cell Ridley sent a letter of apostolic greeting and encouragement to his friend Bradford, who was shortly afterwards burned at Smithfield, saying, "O England! England! repent thee of thy sins!"—and then to his companion in the flames, "Be of good comfort, brother, for we shall sup this night with the Lord."

As he was himself led to the stake, Ridley embraced