

# "UNEQUALLY YOKED."

BY P. LE SUEUR.

It is a sad thing to see any grand or valuable work or thing whatsoever misused, defaced and destroyed. The world of letters has never ceased to regret the loss of the library of Alexandria by the hands of a wretched incendiary, who himself had no conception of the priceless worth of the books he was giving to the flames. And the lovers of art must ever deplore the vandal excesses which robbed posterity of some of the noblest specimens of architecture, sculpture and painting, the products of the genius of preceding ages.

But what are such losses compared to the wreck of a man! to the misapplication of great talents, and to the prostitution of an immortal intelligence to the mean and degrading pursuits of a vile sensualism. And how much greater yet must be the wrong and the ruin when it is that of a man who, having for years held a high and honourable character as a consistent disciple and follower of Christ, forsakes the way of life, turns to folly, persists in a course of evil, sinks into the lowest depths of vice, becomes a profligate, a scoundrel and a sot, and dies in his lapsed and fallen condition!

I am aware that some Christians hold that such results are impossible, and therefore when they see the righteous man turning from his righteousness and plunging into sin with reckless disregard of all laws, human and divine, they are driven to the alternative of denying that he ever was the subject of renewing and sanctifying grace.

But I submit that after all this is mere assumption, and that the ground for believing a man to be a Christian when he exhibits for years a walk and conversation every way worthy of his profession, is much more tenable and trustworthy than that which, in consequence of his apostacy, rejects the evidences of his previous holy life. Would God that there were no examples of such apostacy, but alas, they are neither few nor infrequent, and few Churches exist which cannot point to some sad instances of deep and apparently hopeless backsliding. The case which I