

## John Badby the Taylor

By Rev. A. S. Morton, B.D.

When people gather solemnly at church to take the bread and wine at communion, by breaking the bread and pouring the wine, they recall that Christ gave His body and shed His blood to bring God's forgiving love to repentant sinners. In the Middle Ages, however, it was taught that the bread was actually made the body of Christ at the prayer of the priest and was worshiped almost as God.

But John Wyclif had begun to free men's mind from such superstition. As a result, the priests struck back at him and his followers John Badby, the "taylor," was the second to have his life taken. He was brought before the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, eight bishops and a row of lords, but stood firm to his conviction that "it was impossible for any priest to make the body of Christ." So the Archbishop's court declared Badby a heretic and handed him over to the police. King Henry IV., the successor of Richard II., signed the warrant by which he should be burned.

"John Badby, still persevering in his constancy..was brought into Smithfield, and there, being put in an empty barrel, was bound by iron chains fastened to a stake, having dry wood put to him. And as he was thus standing in the barrel, it happened that the prince, the king's eldest son, was there present, who showing some part of the good Samaritan, began to endeavor . . . to save the life of him..He admonished and counseled him to change his mind and save himself, adding oftentimes threatenings, but in vain. .Then was the barrel put over John Badby and fire put unto him. And when the innocent soul felt the fire, he cried 'Mercy' as though calling on God.

"The prince was moved with the horrible cry, and commanded them to take away the barrel and quench the fire. This commandment being done, he asked him if he would forsake his heresy, and take him to the faith of holy church? Which thing, if he would do, he should have goods enough; promising him a yearly stipend out of the king's treasury ..But this valiant champion of Christ,

neglecting the prince's fair words..being fully determined to suffer any kind of torment. .than so great idolatry and wickedness, refused the offer of worldly promises, being no doubt more vehemently inflamed with the spirit of God than with any earthly desire.

"Wherefore, when as yet he continued unmoveable in his former mind, the prince commanded him straight to be put again in the barrel and that he should not afterwards look for any grace or favor. John Badby, as a valiant champion of Christ, persevered invincibly to the end."

The prince, afterwards Henry V., is known as one who began famous wars which brought untold and useless bloodshed to France and England, John Badby, the taylor, in a true Christlike spirit, gave his life for liberty to what he felt was true, and he is at the beginning of a long row of men who suffered death itself for the truth's sake.

### Failure

Failure is a rocky hill :  
Climb it ! Climb it with a will !

Failure is a broken bone :  
Set it ! Grin, and do not groan !

Failure is a tangled string :  
Puzzle out the knotted thing !

Failure is a river swift :  
Swim it ! Swim, and do not drift !  
—Youth's Companion

### River Glimpses

By Rev. J. A. Scrimgeour, M.A.

Young Canadians, who are studying this Quarter our church's mission work in British Guiana, would, I am sure, find very much to interest eye and ear if they could but come with one of the missionaries on a three days' trip to visit two small stations on the Demerara River. Let us start from Better Hope estate, where Mr. Copper lives. We must be on the way early to Georgetown, the capital, lest we miss the daily river steamer.

Just beyond the town we pass on either side great stretches of sugar cane fields; then