

Being full of the Holy Ghost, he saw in vision a display of heavenly glory. And when he proclaimed aloud, before his exasperated persecutors, the glorious scene presented to his view, "they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord." Then, with brutal ferocity and infernal rage, they "cast him out of the city, and stoned him" to death!

A similar mob persecuted the immaculate Saviour of the world. They misinterpreted all his words and actions, multiplied their false accusations against him, and treated him with every personal insult and indignity. Nothing, in short, would satisfy their bloodthirsty fury, till they had inflicted, upon their unoffending victim, the most ignominious and torturing death!

Thus we see that human nature is the same, in all periods, and *persecuting mobs* were known as early as the apostolic age. From their unbridled ferocity and horrid misrule may Heaven preserve us. "*O my soul, come not thou into their secret; unto their assembly, mine honour, be not thou united.*"

Had we, as a nation, *regarded the things which belong to our peace*, scenes of riot, misrule and civil war had never commenced among us. Had we followed the maxims of the gospel, in all our private and public relations and capacities;—had we "studied the things which make for peace, and things whereby one might edify another," we had still remained a united people, owned and blessed of the Lord. But by our various sins we have made God our enemy; and unless he turn away his anger, and have mercy upon us, we must assuredly perish. We humbly hope and trust that "*the things which belong to our peace*" are not forever hidden from our eyes. We hope a precious remnant may yet be reserved, for whose sake God will be entreated to spare