

The sentence was given unlawfully, since the law required each Sanhedrist, beginning with the youngest, to stand up and give his vote, which was put down in writing. *Spit...buffeted...smote* (slapped); barbarous treatment, and also illegal, for the law required the Sanhedrists, after pronouncing sentence of death, to fast and mourn the rest of the day. *Prophecy*; mockery of Jesus' claim to be a prophet.

### Light from the East

By the late Rev. James Ross, D.D.

HIGH PRIEST—The official head of the religion of Israel was ordinarily the oldest son of his predecessor in the office, and was consecrated by an elaborate ritual of washing, robing and sacrificial rites. Like the other priests he wore underclothes of linen and over these his distinctive garments, a robe of blue, woven, elaborately decorated, reaching to his knees with seventy-two golden bells on its

fringe. Over this was the ephod, a highly embroidered vest, and on the front of it the breastplate with its twelve precious stones. On his head he wore the sacred turban with the gold plate on which was "Holiness to Jehovah." His chief function was performed on the Day of Atonement, when arrayed in the linen garments of the common priest, he entered the holy of holies with the blood of the offering and sprinkled the mercy seat. But the political importance of the office had come to outweigh its religious significance, and the Romans had taken the appointment. The first procurator changed the high priest four times till he found a sufficiently submissive instrument. The sacred vestments were kept by the Romans and were given out only as they were needed. And these puppet high priests disgraced the office still further by venal corruption, time-serving, sycophancy and personal vice.

### THE LESSON APPLIED

By Rev. J. W. Macmillan, D.D., Halifax, N. S.

A visitor to a school for deaf-mutes was addressing the pupils upon the virtues of a good life. After a time he began to speak of truthfulness, and asked, "Can any of you tell me the difference between the truth and a lie?" When one of the boys volunteered and was asked for his answer, instead of talking on his fingers he walked to the blackboard and, seizing a piece of chalk, drew a straight line, at the end of which he wrote the word, "TRUTH." He then drew a wavering line, and wrote the word, "LIE." Was not that a good way of showing the distinction?

When we contrast Jesus and these false witnesses we see Him telling the truth and dying, whereas we see them telling lies and killing Him. So great is truth, that it is worth dying for. So abominable is falsehood that it agrees well with murder. A Huguenot minister in France, in the killing days, when dragged before the magistrate was offered the chance to save his life by allowing a lie to be told for him. The magistrate wished to save the good man and proposed, "I will declare that you have taken the oath, and you may go free." The minister replied, "Then I shall have to expose you, for it is not permitted me to ransom my life by a lie. The

God who prohibits me taking this oath of recantation will not allow me to make it believed that I have taken it." So the heroic minister sealed his confession with his blood. He was a faithful follower of his master, and an example to us all of the paramount authority of truth. Probably none of us, in these days, will have to make the grim choice which was forced on him. But the follower of Jesus must speak the truth, whatever it costs.

There is no nobler figure in the history of humanity than Jesus when on trial. His perfect composure in the midst of danger, calumny and shame is unrivaled. Many great men have been greatly tried and have borne themselves admirably, but none of them attained the unruffled serenity of Jesus. It was said of a famous clergyman of the Church of England, that, "he was deaf when he could hear, blind when he could see, dumb when he could speak; that he extinguished many fires and kindled none." It is one of the severest tests of character, to be able to repress oneself under unjust provocation. We all want to be treated justly, and especially when our motives have been of the best do we resent the false and slanderous insinuation that they have been base. It is then