

young to be imprisoned and punished according to the Act under which their parents suffer. But the officer is not to be cheated of his prey, and saying : "The boys are old enough to be whipped, and shall be whipped out of their religion," he marches them off to Bridewell and gives orders that they shall be put in the stocks for two hours. Here these young heroes suffer, their wrists swelling badly in the stocks, and although refused food they will not work, saying it is unlawful to require it of them, as they are guilty of no offence. Whippings and other punishments, and even hunger, cannot break down the brave spirit of those boys, who conscious of doing right are wonderfully enabled to bear up under their sufferings, and we think no less of them for the tears which gather when they think of their parents.

Ernest's father had died in the prison where Alfred's father is still confined. Let us return to the Friends so rudely scattered. At length, after much abuse, tender hands are suffered to carry Anne Merlane to her home and lay her on the bed from which she is never to rise again. After a few days of intense suffering the pure spirit is set free from the bruised and broken body, and another martyr is added to the followers of Him who said, "My kingdom is not of this world else would my servants fight." But the last thought of that dying mother is of her boy so rudely taken from her, and after sending a message of love to her husband she prays earnestly that her boy may ever stand firm and unwavering for the right. Her prayer is answered. Those boys in their prison stand as one of the beacon lights of that dark age. So far are they from discouragement or dwelling on their own sufferings that a portion of their time is occupied in writing a letter of encouragement to their young friends, exhorting them to be faithful in their duties and obedient to God's light in their souls.

It is needless to say that Ernest and Alfred came out of prison stronger and

nobler for their sufferings, feeling God nearer to them than ever before. In less than a year's time the brave, loving spirit of Alfred Merlane had gone to join his mother, where separations and sorrows are no more. Ernest deeply mourned the loss of his friend, but it drove him still nearer that Friend who is closer than a brother, and throughout a long life his voice was heard not only in the ministry of Friends' Meetings, where he spoke with the spirit and with power, but in the high places of the land his voice was raised against all evil and every form of abuse. And after he was gathered to his fathers in a ripe old age, his children did indeed rise up and call him blessed, and many generations were happy to trace back their ancestry to Ernest Ives, who, when but a boy, found and followed the Guide which led him through a useful, happy life, and enabled him to die in the full assurance of everlasting life in Heaven.

LYDIA J. MOSHER.

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### CHARITY.

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In the 13th chapter of Corinthians we read, "Charity suffereth long and is kind, charity envieth not, charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil ; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth."

Surely if mankind were clothed with this pure charity which Cowper tells us is a plant divinely nursed, crime and suffering would soon be swept away and peace and unity reign in its stead, for according to the texts the natural outgrowth of this would be kind, thoughtful thoughts and actions. Therefore it behooves us all to strive to keep this virtue ever in view, for in the same chapter we are told that "Though I speak with the tongue of men and of angles and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal," "And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing."