

verily to preclude its presence. It was not only upon the devout inquirer that Jesus fastened this look; it appeared upon His face with equal readiness even when His ears were being greeted with the harsh remorseless cry: "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" and (later on) amid the bitter, bitter pangs of an excruciating death. It spoke peace indeed to troubled consciences amid the unbroken stillness of the synagogue, where men were hanging breathlessly upon His lips; but it rested also upon the jeering multitude that surrounded the cross and upon one who was nailed upon an adjoining cross, and with the look there came the words: "Father, forgive them." "To-day shalt thou be with Me in Paradise."

It is hard to refrain from naming one additional instance in which this look of forgiveness fell from the eyes of the Saviour. Surely it is no unwarranted inference to believe that they rested most tenderly on the affrighted stranger, Simon the Cyrenian, who was compelled to assist our Lord in carrying to Calvary the heavy cruel cross. Few possibly have ever thought much about this Simon, for the New Testament tells us very little about him. In the present instance, he was guilty of no crime that he should have had to submit to the indignity of being publicly associated with malefactors on their way to punishment; and, save that he was too weak to resist and that no man offered to befriend him, he would not have had to endure the added insult of feeling the sting of blows and brutal words. This scene, described as with the graphic touch of one who had personally witnessed it, has been depicted thus: "I feel sure that the dear Master sometimes turned and LOOKED kindly upon Simon. Like many another who with distressed and timid heart has nevertheless raised to his shoulder his appointed cross, Simon enjoyed at least during that hard effort the Saviour's quickening smile. I know the Lord so well that I feel sure He must have done this: He would not forget the man who was His partner in trial for a time. And ah! that look! How Simon must have treasured up even the remembrance of it, as long as he lived! Methinks that when the old man came to lie upon his death-bed, he must have exclaimed; "My hope to-day is in Him whose cross I once carried. Blessed burden! Lay me away in the grave; but I shall rise again and see HIM, even in His glory. His cross has pressed me, and His love shall surely raise me." *

* A clipping from a newspaper.