

laid and an exquisite banquet is prepared. The servants have fulfilled their mission and the hall is filled with the invited guests. Suddenly the doors are opened and the king enters to see them—all eyes are fixed upon him, and in the presence of his majestic appearance many a heart beats highly, and profound respect fills all minds. His piercing eye looks down the lines of the guests, and is arrested by a man among them. Why is this one so troubled under the royal attention? why do his eyes drop? whence the pallor of his cheeks? why so ill at ease? has he not been invited? Yes, surely, the bad and the good, all have been invited. What has he then to fear? His life has perhaps been a very bad one? But the bad, the very worst, are included in the invitation. What then is the cause of his embarrassment? The king said to him, "Friend." He was then welcome; the king had nothing against him. But he asked him one question: "How camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment?" To such a simple question he ought to have been able to give a ready answer; he would never have dared to present himself in the festive hall without a suitable dress, if he had not had a good excuse. But no, the Lord adds: "And he was speechless."

Reader, are you a professor? Tell me, do you bear the name of Christian?

"I go regularly to a place of worship," you perhaps reply. But I ask you; Are you really a Christian?

"O, I do not profess to be religious, but I am not an infidel."