

the celebrated Archbishop of Glasgow was subjected. Dr. Leighton was of Scotch extraction but was a Puritan Minister in England. It has often been wondered how his son, who was once a Presbyterian Minister at Newbattle, in Mid Lothian, should afterwards have joined the denomination which treated his father with such barbarity. Archbishop Leighton, however, was, by universal consent, one of the holiest men of his own, or of any age.

"Dr. Alexander Leighton, having published, in October 1628, a book against the bishops, entitled *An Appeal to the Parliament, or Sion's plea against the Prelacie*, was seized by a warrant from the High Commission, and, without undergoing any examination, was loaded with irons and thrust into a loathsome apartment in Newgate. After having been confined for fifteen weeks, he was proceeded against in the Star Chamber, June the 5th, 1630, when an information was exhibited against him, for "framing, publishing, and scattering a scandalous book against King, Peers, and Prelates." He acknowledged the fact of writing, but denied the evil intention with which he was charged, affirming that his only end was to remonstrate against the grievances under which the people laboured, "to the end that the Parliament might take them into consideration, and so give such redress as might be for the honour of the King, the quiet of the people, and the peace of the Church." He was finally condemned to pay a fine of £10,000, and to be imprisoned during the King's pleasure. "And in respect," said his iniquitous judges, "the defendent hath heretofore entered into the Ministry, and this Court for the reverence of that calling, doth not use to inflict any corporal or ignominious punishment upon any person, so long as they continue in orders, the Court doth refer him to the High Commission, there to be degraded of his Ministry: And that being done he shall then also, for further punishment and example to others, be brought into the pillory at Westminster, (the Court sitting), and there be whipped; and, after his whipping, be set upon the pillory for some convenient space, and have one of his ears cut off, and his nose slit, and be branded in the face with a double S. S., for a *Sower of Sedition*; and shall then be carried to the prison of the Fleet, and at some other convenient time afterwards, shall be carried into the pillory at Cheapside, upon a market-day, and be there likewise whipped, and then be set upon the pillory, and have his other ear cut off, and from thence be carried back to the prison of the Fleet; there to remain during life, unless his Majesty shall be graciously pleased to enlarge him." This barbarous sentence was executed with a ferocity worthy of the spirit which indited it. "For upon the 16th of November, 1630," writes a contemporary, "the censure was executed in a most cruel manner. His ears were cut, his nose slit, his face branded with burning irons; he was tied to a post, and whipped with a treble cord, to that cruel extent, that he himself, writing the history thereof ten years after, affirmed, that every lash brought away the flesh; and that he should feel it to his dying day. He was lastly put in the pillory, and kept there near two hours in frost and snow; and then, after this most barbarous usage, not permitted to return to his quarters in the Fleet in a coach provided to carry him, but compelled, in that sad condition and severe weather, to go by water. After this he was kept ten weeks in dirt and mire, not being sheltered from rain and snow. They shut him up most closely twenty-two months; and he remained a prisoner ten or eleven years, not suffered to breathe in the open air, until the Parliament of 1640 most happily delivered him."

THE PRESENT AN AGE OF OPPORTUNITY AND OF PROGRESS.

To Christianity this is pre-eminently the age of opportunity. Never before did the world offer to her anything like the same open field as at this moment. Even a single century from the present time, how much more limited was her access to the minds of men! Within our own favoured country, a zealous preacher would then have been driven away from many a sphere, where now he is hailed. On the Continent of Europe, the whole of France has been opened to the preaching of the word, though under some restraints. In Belgium, Sardinia, and other fields, it may now be said, that the word of God is not bound. A century ago the Chinese empire, the Mahommedan world, and Africa, containing between them such a preponderating majority of the human race, were all closed against the Gospel of Christ.