

## A YOUTHFUL MARTYR.

In the first ages of the Church of Christ, in the city of Antioch, a believer was carried forth to die as a martyr. "Ask any little child," said he, "whether it were better to worship one God, the Maker of heaven and earth, and one Saviour, who is able to save us, or to worship the many false gods whom the heathen serve?"

Now, it was so that a Christian mother had come to the spot, holding in her hand a little son, of about nine or ten years old, named Cyril. The heathen judge no sooner heard the martyr's words than his eyes rested on the child, and he desired the question to be put to him.

The question was asked; and, to the surprise of those who heard it, the boy replied, "God is one, and Jesus Christ is one with the Father."

The judge was filled with rage. "Oh, base Christian!" he cried, "thou hast taught that child to answer thus." Then turning to the boy, he said more mildly, "Tell me, child, how did you learn this faith?"

The boy looked lovingly in his mother's face, and replied, "It was God's grace that taught it to my dear mother, and she taught it to me."

"Let us now see what the love of Christ can do for you," cried the cruel judge; and at a sign from him, the officers who stood ready with their wooden rods, of the fashion of the Romans, instantly seized the boy. Gladly would the mother have saved her timid dove, even at the cost of her own life, but she could not do so; yet she did whisper to him to trust in the love of Christ, and to speak the truth.

"What can the love of Christ do for him now?" asked the judge.

"It enables him to endure what his Master endured for him and for us all," was the reply. And again they smote the child.

"What can the love of Christ do for him?" And tears fell even from the eyes of the heathen, as that mother, as much tortured as her son, answered, "It teaches him to forgive his persecutors."

The boy watched his mother's eyes as

they rose up to heaven for him; and when his tormentors asked whether he would not now acknowledge the gods they served, and deny Christ, he still said, "No; there is no other God but one; and Jesus Christ is the Redeemer of the world. He loved me, and I love Him for his love."

The poor boy now fainted beneath the repeated strokes, and they cast the bruised body into the mother's arms, crying, "See what the love of your Christ can do for him now!"

As the mother pressed her child gently to her own crushed heart, she answered, "that love will take him from the wrath of man to the rest of heaven."

"Mother," cried the dying boy, "give me a drop of water from our cool well upon my tongue."

The mother said, "Already, dearest, hast thou tasted of the well that springeth up to everlasting life--the grace which Christ gives to his little ones. Thou hast spoken the truth in love; arise now, for thy Saviour calleth for thee. May He grant thy poor mother grace to follow in the bright path!" The little martyr faintly raised his eyes and said again: "There is but one God, and Jesus Christ, whom he has sent," and so saying he gave up his life.—*Golden Sayings for the Young.*

## NOW IS THE TIME.

Perhaps there is now a "shy, solitary, serious thought" in your heart about becoming a Christian. If you let it alone it may fly away like a bird through a cage-door left open, and may never come back. Or else a crowd of business cares and plans, or perhaps a pressure of social invitations will flock in, and the good thought be smothered to death. You have smothered just such blessed thoughts before. The thought in your heart is to become a Christian now; and the great bell rings out: "Now is the accepted time; behold! now is the day of salvation." No soul was ever yet saved, and no good deed was ever done to-morrow. Be careful, dear friend, lest to-morrow find you beyond the world of probation.—*Dr. T. L. Cuyler.*