

"Peace with God," said he. "What do you mean by peace with God?"

"It is the effect," said I to him, "of the forgiveness of sins. It is like the consciousness that would exist in the agonised spirit of an unfortunate criminal condemned to be guillotined, to whom a messenger comes suddenly, bringing this dispatch from the Emperor: 'All your crimes are forgiven you; go forth in peace!'"

"Then," replied he, "I have not peace with God, for I have never yet received such a message from God. For nearly three years I have been imprisoned between four walls, exercising the greatest severities against myself. I have fasted, prayed, ill-treated my body until I am reduced to what you see, but I have not yet received this message from God."

"You are a sincere man," I said to him; "you are not one of those religionists who affect a heavenly air and within have nothing but lust and wickedness."

"How should I not be sincere, sir, when I know that it is with God himself I have to do. Appearance, you know, is only for this world. Reality is for eternity. A thousand times a fool is he who sees no farther than this world. For my part it is eternity that occupies me."

"God has shown you, my dear friend, the curse against every breach of His law; and as you are not a hypocrite, but knowing well that you are violating this law constantly, even in spite of yourself, you at once apply the curse to yourself, well knowing in your conscience that you merit it."

"That is it exactly! You have just laid bare my heart; that is my state precisely. I see the just wrath of God against me, and I much desire to be able to appease or escape it." I took out my Bible, and pointing to Gal. iii. 13, he read, "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us; for it is written,