

Peace to you which were far off, and to them that were nigh.
Eph. ii. 17.

THE WIG IN THE CANNON'S MOUTH.

BY REV. P. B. POWER, M.A.

AT the battle of Ross, in the dreadful rebellion in Ireland in the year 1798, the rebels were more like men who were mad, than in their senses. One rebel, bold with drink and excitement, came on before his comrades, toward a cannon, crammed his hat and wig into it, and cried out, "Come on boys: her mouth is stopped!" At that instant the gunner laid the match to the gun, and blew the unfortunate man to atoms.

Such a story as this, one could scarcely believe; but its truth was sworn to by a person who witnessed it from a window.

There are hundreds and thousands of people, many of whom at least should know better who are dealing with the terrible law and justice and anger of God against sin, as this unfortunate wretch dealt with the cannon at the battle of Ross.

They come boldly up to the cannon's mouth—right up to the law: they are not afraid of it. They have, as they think, what will satisfy it—what will prevent its doing them any harm—what will stop its mouth, and hinder its death and destruction from coming forth.

And what do they bring? Their own good deeds—not one of which has been perfect enough to satisfy the law. A scrap of imperfection makes a deed worthless in itself; and our best righteousness is full of shortcoming.

It is with this, men dare to approach the law of God. But it is madness. Every man who does this is as insane as that rebel who was mad with drink. That flimsy hat and wig—what were they, to stop the iron ball and the gunpowder's blast? Every step that unfortunate man took up to the gun, only brought him nearer and nearer to a ruin more and more sure.

No chance of that gun's missing him—himself by his reckless daring, took too good care of that.

And, reader if you are trying to stop the mouth of God's law with your own miserable righteousness, and are deluding others into doing the same, it needs but the fire to touch the gun—and *you die!* I would far rather this very hour, try to stop a cannon's mouth with the palm of my hand, than I would try to stop the mouth of God's righteous law by any good deeds of my own—it would be one flash, and then death.

But what man could not do, God Himself can.

God has found out a way of stopping the mouth of all that could hurt you—even of His own law. "Who is he that condemneth? it is Christ that died!" He has told us that "there is now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus." He has Himself quenched the fire that would have destroyed you, in the blood which cleanseth from all sin.

AN agnostic who was once present in a refined circle, was surprised to learn that a certain noted lady believed firmly in the sacred Scriptures. He ventured to ask her,

"Do you believe in the Bible?"

"Most certainly I do," was her reply.

"Why do you believe it?" he queried again.

"Because *I am acquainted with the author*

This was her testimony; and all his talk about the unknown and the unknowable went for nothing, in view of the calm confidence born of her personal acquaintance with God. And it is this knowledge which is most effectual in dispelling the doubts and uncertainties which linger in the human mind. It is good to know the Bible; it is better still to know the Lord. It is important to know the truth; it is still more important to know Him who is "the Way, the Truth, and the Life." Blessed are they that *know the Lord*; for to know Him is life eternal.

God having raised up His Son Jesus, sent Him to bless you.

Acts. iii. 26.