

shudder; the flames soon reach him, and consume him in the forty-fourth year of his fitful life. In the last moments he was heard to pray in smoke and agony, with a loud voice, "Jesus Christ, thou Son of the Eternal God, have mercy upon me."¹ Thus he died for the doctrine of the Trinity which he had upheld during many years of life.

The present age makes no mistake in its sympathy with Servetus. The sixteenth century is repulsive to the twentieth century in its unfeeling verdict of the stake for opinion's sake, and we leave the scene with conflicting emotions.

The growth of Calvin's spirit from the shrinking to the severe is a fact worth recalling. In the earlier editions of his *Institutes* are passages which show that he had convictions that heretics should not be punished, at least with harshness. He says: "We should strive by all possible means, by exhortation, and teaching, by clemency and kindness, and by our prayers to God, that they may be commended to better thoughts, and return to the bosom of the Church." This and other passages are altered in later editions. What changed the man? Possibly his naturally acid temper became more bitter with the accumulation of conflicts, and the crisis which came in the year 1553 brought him to the last level of bitterness against all opposition. He had sufficient support from his surrounding theologians. Though a few condemned the exceed-

¹So Dr. Schaff in Swiss Ref.