

## “Bundy and the Ferocious Prisoner”

The power of kindness is seen in the case of Haynes, executed in 1799 at Bristol, Eng. He was heavily ironed, yet so extremely violent that the other prisoners stood in fear of him, and were obliged to be constantly on their guard, It became necessary even to call out the military on him; but this only irritated him, and made him worse. He would expose his naked chest to the soldiers' bayonets, dare them to run him through, and say he would rather be shot dead than surrender himself to them. Yet, when force failed, remonstrance succeeded; for he actually delivered up to the persuasions of a gentleman, a weapon which a file of soldiers were unable to take from him.

A pious minister by the name of Bundy, used to visit him, and at length told the keeper he wished to spend the night with the felon. He was warned of his danger; but, moved with compassion, he persisted, and entered the prisoner's cell. Finding him prostrate on the floor under the weight of his irons, he persuaded the keeper to let him have one hand and foot at liberty. The keeper retired late at night, locking after him three massive doors; and Haynes, immediately lifting up his liberated hand, and reaching a clasped knife he had concealed, rushed fiercely towards him, exclaiming with the voice and looks of a demon, " Now you are in ' my power, I will kill you." The man of God thought his end had come, but suddenly recalling the passage, "thou canst have no power over me unless it be given thee from above," was instantly raised above all fear, and calmly met the enraged the prisoner as he rushed him, to whom he kindly said, " Now, my friend, what harm have I done you, or of what service would my death be to you?" He then spoke of the love of Christ, and assured Haynes, that he was ready to receive all, even the most wicked, who came to him. These words of kindness softened the prisoner's heart; he threw down the knife, acknowledging his guilt, and burst into tears. Deeply convicted at length of sin, he asked if it was possible for such a sinner as himself ever to be saved ? The anguish of his mind was extreme; he would often weep bitterly in view of his sins; and there is reason to hope that he died a sincere penitent.