

bers in the body of Christ in beholding these things, do in some degree experience the fellowship of his sufferings, and as the wisdom of the world more and more takes place in conducting the affairs of this visible gathered church, and the pure leadings of the Holy Spirit are less waited for and followed, so the true suffering seed is more and more oppressed.

My mind is often affected with a sense of the condition of sincere hearted people in some kingdoms, where liberty of conscience is not allowed, many of whom being burthened in their minds with prevailing superstition, joined with oppressions, are often under sorrow; and where such have attended to that pure light which hath in some degree opened their understandings, and for their faithfulness thereto, have been brought to examination and trial, how heavy are the persecutions which in divers parts of the world are exercised upon them? How mighty, as to the outward, is that power by which they are borne down and oppressed?

How deeply affecting is the condition of many upright hearted people who are taken into the papal inquisition? What lamentable cruelties, in deep vaults, in a private way, are exercised on many of them? and how lingering is that death by a small slow fire, which they have frequently indured, who have been faithful to the end?

How many tender-spirited protestants have been sentenced to spend the remainder of their
lives