

Last Words of Famous People



Here are the testimonies of people when they came to die:

Talleyrand Perigord: "I am suffering the pangs of the damned.

Sir Thomas Scott: "Until this moment I believed that there was neither a God nor a hell. Now I know and feel there are both and I am doomed to perdition by the just judgement of the Almighty."

Thomas Paine: “I would give worlds, if I had them, if the 'Age of Reason' had never been published. O Lord, help me! Christ, help me! Stay with me! It is hell to be left alone!”

Francis Newport: “That there is a God, I know, because I continually felt the effects of His wrath; that there is a hell, I am equally certain, having recieved an earnest of my inheritance there already in my breast. I

**have despised my Maker
and denied my Redeemer; I
have joined myself to the
atheist and profane, and
continued this course under
many convictions, till my
iniquity was ripe for
vengeance and the just
judgement of God. How idle
is it to bid the fire not burn
when fuel is administered,
and to command the seas to
be smooth in the midst of a
storm! Such is my case;
and what are the comforts**

of my friends? Whither am I going? Damned and lost forever. God has become my enemy and there is none able to save me. Oh, insufferable pangs of hell and damnation!”

Voltaire: “I am abandoned by God and man! I shall go to hell! O Christ! O Jesus Christ!”

Charles IX, King Of France: “What blood, what evil counsels have I followed! I am lost; I see it well!”

Hobbes: "I say again, if I had the whole world to dispose of, I would give it to live one day. I am about to take a leap in the dark!"

Gibbon: "All is now lost, finally, irrecoverably lost, All is dark and doubtful! "

Queen Elizabeth: "All my possessions but for a moment of time! "

SIR Thomas Smith: "It is lamentable that men consider not for what end they are born into the world

till they are ready to go out of it."

Napoleon Bonaparte: "I died before my time, and my body will be given back to the earth to become food for the worms. Such is the fate of him who has been called the great Napoleon. What an abyss lies between my deep misery and the eternal kingdom of Christ!"

Henry Ward Beecher,
evangelist, d. March 8, 1887:
"Now comes the mystery".

Ludwig van Beethoven,
composer, d. March 26, 1827:
**“Friends applaud, the
comedy is finished.”**

Charles V, King of France,
d. 1380: **“Ay Jesus.”**

Winston Churchill,
statesman, d. January 24,
1965: **“I’m bored with it all.”**
Before slipping into a coma.
He died 9 days later.

Joan Crawford, actress, d.
May 10, 1977: **“Damn it . . .
Don’t you dare ask God to
help me.”** To her

housekeeper, who had begun to pray aloud.

Charles Darwin, d. April 19, 1882: **“I am not the least afraid to die.”**

Thomas Alva Edison, inventor, d. October 18, 1931: **“It is very beautiful over there.”**

Richard Feynman, physicist, d. 1988: **“I'd hate to die twice. It's so boring.”**

Victor Hugo, writer, d. May 22, 1885: **“I see black light.”**

James Joyce, writer, d. 1941: **“Does nobody understand?”**

Pietro Perugino, Italian painter, d. 1523: **“I am curious to see what happens in the next world to one who dies unshriven.”**

Giving his reasons for refusing to see a priest as he lay dying.

Alexander Pope, writer, d. May 30, 1744: **“Here am I, dying of a hundred good symptoms.”**

Pancho Villa, Mexican revolutionary, d. 1923: **"Don't let it end like this. Tell them I said something."**

Louis XIV (1638—1715), French king: **"Has God forgotten everything I've done for him?"**

Bernard de Fontenelle (1657—1757), French philosopher: **"I feel nothing, apart from a certain difficulty in continuing to exist."** Remark on his deathbed.

Henry David Thoreau
(1817-62), US writer: **"I did not know that we had ever quarreled."** On being urged to make his peace with God.

Sigmund Freud: **"This is absurd! This is absurd!"**

Voltaire (attributed), when asked by a priest to renounce Satan: **"Now, now, my good man, this is no time for making enemies."**

Brownlow North (1875), a profligate nobleman who became a preacher: **"The**

blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.' That is the verse on which I am now dying. One wants no more."

John Nelson Darby (1882):
"Beyond the grave comes heaven. Well, it will be strange to find myself in Heaven, but it won't be a strange Christ--One I've known these many years. I am glad He knows me. I have a deep peace, which you know."

Charles Wesley, author of over 4,000 published hymns:
"I shall be satisfied with Thy likeness. Satisfied!"

Charles Dickens (1870), the famous author: **"I commit my soul to the mercy of God, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."**

John Quincy Adams: **"This is the last of earth. I am content!"**

Benjamin Parsons: **"My head is resting very sweetly on three pillows: infinite**

power, infinite wisdom, and infinite love."

Henry Moorhouse (1880):
"If it were God's will to raise me up, I should like to preach from the text, John 3:16. Praise be to the Lord."

Earl Cairns (1885), lord high chancellor of England:
"God loves me and cares for me. He has pardoned all my sins for Christ's sake, and I look forward to the future with no dread."

Bishop Joseph Lightfoot, after having several Scriptures read to him, he was asked what he had in mind. In utter calmness of spirit, he replied: **"I am feeding on a few great thoughts."**

Sidney Cooper (1902), member of the Royal Academy of Science in London: **"I have full faith in Thy atonement, and I am confident of Thy help. Thy precious blood I fully rely on. Thou art the source of**

**my comfort. I have no other.
I want no other."**

Lord V.C. Roberts (1914),
who died in France while
telling those gathered by him
of the importance of their
studying the Bible: **"I ask you
to put your trust in God.
You will find in this Book
guidance when you are in
health, comfort when you
are in sickness, and
strength when you are in
adversity."**

Catherine Booth, wife of the founder of the Salvation Army:
"The waters are rising, but so am I. I am not going under, but over. Do not be concerned about dying; go on living well, the dying will be right."

William Pitt (1778), Earl of Chatham, statesmen, orator, and prime minister: **"I throw myself on the mercy of God through the merits of Christ."**

Edward Perronet, pastor and author: "**Glory to God in the heights of His divinity! Glory to God in the depths of His humanity! Glory to God in His all-sufficiency! Into His hands I commend my spirit.**"

Augustus Toplady (1778), preacher and author of the hymn, "Rock of Ages": "**The consolations of God to such an unworthy wretch are so abundant that He leaves me nothing to pray for but a**

continuance of them. I enjoy heaven already in my soul."

Sir Walter Raleigh, English admiral, before his beheading:
"It matters little how the head lies if the heart be right. Why doest thou not strike?"

Countess of Huntingdon (1791): **"I have the hope which inspired the dying malefactor. And now my work is done; I have nothing to do but go to the grave and thence to my Father."**

Robert Burns, the Scottish poet: "I have but a moment to speak to you, my dear. Be a good man; be virtuous; be religious. Nothing else will give you any comfort when you come to be here."

John Wesley (1791): "The best of all: God is with us!"

Lady Glenorchy: "If this is dying, it is the pleasantest thing imaginable."

John Bacon (1799),
eminent English sculptor,
whose monument of Lord

Chatham stands in Westminster Abbey: **"What I was as an artist seemed to be of some importance while I lived; but what I really was as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only thing of importance to me now."**

Francis Ridley Havergal, songwriter. After requesting a friend to read to her Isaiah 42, she uttered these nine words after verse 6-and died: ("I the Lord have called thee in

righteousness, and will hold
thine hand, and will keep
thee."): **calledheld-kept! I
can go home on that!"**

George Washington (1799),
an earnest Christian and the
first president of the United
States: **"Doctor, I am dying,
but I am not afraid to die."**

John Huss, Bohemian
reformer and martyr, asked at
the last moment by the Duke
of Bavaria to recant: **"What I
taught with my lips, I seal
with my blood."**

Lady Powerscourt (1800):
"One needs a great many Scriptures to live by, but the only Scripture that a person needs to die by is 1 John 1:7, and that verse never was sweeter to me than at this moment." ("But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.")

Sir Walter Scott (1832), the famous author was talking

with his son-in-law: "What shall I read?" said Lockhart. "Can you ask?" The dying man replied, **"there is only one Book."**

John Pawson, minister: "I know I am dying, but my deathbed is a bed of roses. I have no thorns planted upon my dying pillow. In Christ, heaven is already begun!"

William Wilberforce (1833), member of Parliament who helped eliminate slavery in

England: **"My affections are so much in heaven that I can leave you all without a regret; yet I do not love you less, but God more."**

Adoniram

Judson:

American missionary to
Burma: **"I go with the gladness of a boy bounding away from school. I feel so strong in Christ."**

Captain Hedley Vicars

(1855): **"The Lord has kept me in perfect peace and made me glad with the light**

of His countenance. In the Lord Jesus I find all I want of happiness and enjoyment."

Sir Henry Havelock (1857), when felled by an attack of malignant cholera and told that he could not survive, calmly replied: **"I have prepared for this for forty years,"** and then he added to those around him: **"Prepare to meet thy God!"**

The Apostle Paul (A.D. 66): **"I have fought a good fight, I**

have finished my course, I have kept the faith; henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness." (2 Timothy 4:7-8).

Longfellow, "For the Christian, the grave itself is but a covered bridge leading from light to light, through a brief darkness."

Polycarp (A.D. 155), disciple of the Apostle John, at his own martyrdom: "Eighty and six years have I

served Him, and He has done me nothing but good. How could I curse Him, My Lord and Saviour?"

David Brainard, pioneer missionary to the American Indians: **"I do not go to heaven to be advanced, but to give honour to God. It is no matter where I shall be stationed in heaven, whether I have a high or low seat there, but to live and please and glorify God . . . My heaven is to please God**

and glorify Him, and give all to Him and to be wholly devoted to His glory."

Susanna Wesley, mother of John and Charles Wesley: **"Children, when I am gone, sing a song of praise to God."**

George Whitefield, English evangelist: **"Lord Jesus, I am weary in Thy work, but not of Thy work. If I have not yet finished my course, let me go and speak for Thee once more in the fields, seal the**

truth, and come home to die."

Philip Melancthon (1560), after several passages of Scripture were read to him by his son-in-law, he was asked if he would have anything else: **"Nothing else but heaven!"**

Preston: **"Blessed by God! Though I change my place, I shall not change my company."**

Samuel Rutherford (1615): **"Mine eyes shall see my**

**Redeemer. He has
pardoned, loved, and
washed me, and given me
joy unspeakable and full of
glory. I feed on manna.
Glory, glory, glory to my
Creator and Redeemer
forever!"**

Francis Bacon, lord
chancellor of England: **"The
sweetest life in this world is
piety, virtue, and honesty."**

John Bunyan (1688),
author of Pilgrim's Progress:
"Weep not for me, but for

yourselves. The Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, through the mediation of His blessed Son, receives me, though a sinner. We shall meet to sing the new song, and remain everlastingly happy."

Baxter, the English martyr:
"I have pain; but I have peace, I have peace!"

David Brainard (1747), well-known missionary in the American Colonies: **"I am going into eternity; and it is**

sweet to me to think of eternity; the endlessness of it makes it sweet. But oh! What shall I say of the future of the wicked! The thought is too dreadful!"

Ann Hasseltine Judson, missionary to Burma and wife of Adoniram Judson: **"Oh, the happy day will soon come when we shall meet all our friends who are now scattered--meet to part no more in our heavenly Father's house."**

Abbott: "Glory to God!
After the grave heaven will
open before me!"

John Knox. "Live in
Christ, and the flesh need
not fear death."

Everett. "Glory, glory,
glory!" (This expression was
repeated for 25 minutes and
only ceased with life itself.)

John A. Lyth: "Can this be
death? Why, it is better than
living! Tell them I die happy
in Jesus!"

Martin Luther: "Our God is the God from whom cometh salvation. God is the Lord by whom we escape death! Into Thy hands I commit my spirit; God of truth, Thou hast redeemed me!"

Margaret Prior: "Eternity rolls before me like a sea of glory!"

Goodwin: "Ah! is this dying? How have I dreaded as an enemy this smiling friend!"

Martha McCrackin: "How bright the room! How full of angels!"

Mary Frances: "Oh, that I could tell you what joy I possess! The Lord doth shine with such power upon my soul!"

Sir David Brewster, scientist and inventor of the kaleidoscope: "I will see Jesus; I shall see Him as He is! I have had the light for many years. Oh how bright

it is! I feel so safe and satisfied!"

Michael Faraday (1867), chemist, electrical engineer, and leading British scientist, as he neared death, replied to a scientist who asked him what he would do in heaven: **"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things that God hath prepared for them that love Him.' I shall be with Christ, and that is enough."** When a

journalist interjected and questioned him as to his speculations about a life after death, he said, **"Speculations! I know nothing about speculations. I'm resting on certainties. 'I know that my Redeemer liveth,' and because He lives, I shall live also."**

Daniel Webster (1852), the well-known orator and legislator, had William Cowper's hymn read to him:

"There is a fountain filled
with blood,

"Drawn from Immanuel's
veins."

Then he read the last
stanza:

"Then in a nobler, sweeter
song,

"I'll sing Thy power to save.

"When this poor lisping,
stammering tongue

"Lies silent in the grave."

At this, Webster, one of the
most powerful speakers in

American history, replied,
"Amen! Amen! Amen!"

Owen, the Puritan, lay on his deathbed, and his secretary was writing a letter, in his name, to a friend: "I am still in the land of the living," he wrote and read what he had written to Owen.

"No, please do not write that," Owen said. "I am yet in the land of the dying, but later I will be in the land of the living!"

On November 20, 1847, in Nice, France, Henry Frances Lyte, a retired pastor of the Church of England died. He had spent his life working in the slums of London helping people. After his death, his family found a paper he had written during those last days. It is now a hymn sung around the world:

**"Abide with me: fast falls
the eventide.**

**"The darkness deepens;
Lord, with me abide!**

**"When other helpers fail,
and comforts flee,**

**"Help of the helpless, O
abide with me."**

The epitaph on the grave in
Canterbury, England, of Henry
Alford, the hymn writer is this:

**"The inn of a pilgrim
journeying to Jerusalem."**

A 22-year-old Dutch patriot
wrote the following letter to his
parents before he was
executed by a Nazi firing
squad for the crime of trying to

escape with his three companions to England:

"In a little while at five o'clock it is going to happen, and that is not so terrible . . On the contrary, it is beautiful to be in God's strength. God has told us that He will not forsake us if only we pray to Him for support. I feel so strongly my nearness to God, I am fully prepared to die . . I have confessed all my sins to Him and have become

very quiet. Therefore do not mourn but trust in God and pray for strength . . Give me a firm handshake. God's will be done.. we are courageous. Be the same. They can only take our bodies. Our souls are in God's hands . . May God bless you all. Have no hate. I die without hatred. God rules everything."

The Apostle Paul said, "**To die is gain**" (Philippians 1:21), and "**O death, where**

is thy sting?" (1 Corinthians 15:55).

Aristotle wrote: "**Death is a dreadful thing, for it is the end!"**

John Donne, the English author, wrote: "**Death is a bloody conflict and no victory at last; a tempestuous sea, and no harbor at last; a slippery height and no footing; a desperate fall and no bottom!"**

Rousseau cried, "**No man dares to face death without fear.**"

The infidel, **Robert Ingersoll**, when standing at the grave of his brother, said, "**Life is a narrow vale between the cold and barren peaks of two eternities. We strive in vain to look beyond the height. We cry aloud, and the only answer is the echo of our wailing cry. From the voiceless lips of the**

**unreplying dead there
comes no word."**

Voltaire, the most influential atheist of Europe in his day, cried out with his dying breath: **"I am abandoned by God and man; I shall go to hell! I will give you half of what I am worth, if you will give me six months life."**

Honore Mirabeau, a leading political organizer of the French Revolution: **"My sufferings are intolerable: I have in me a hundred years**

of life, but not a moment's courage. Give me more laudanum, that I may not think of eternity! O Christ, O Jesus Christ!"

Mazarin, French cardinal and advisor to kings: "**O my poor soul! what will become of thee? Wither wilt thou go?**"

Severus, Roman emperor who caused the death of thousands of Christians: "**I have been everything; and everything is nothing!**"

Thomas Hobbes, the political philosopher and sceptic who corrupted some of England's great men: **"If I had the whole world, I would give anything to live one day. I shall be glad to find a hole to creep out of the world at. I am about to take a fearful leap in the dark!"**

Caesar Borgia: **"I have provided, in the course of my life, for everything except death; and now,**

alas! I am to die, although entirely unprepared!"

Sir Thomas Scott,
chancellor of England: **"Until this moment, I thought there was neither God nor hell; now I know and feel that there are both, and I am doomed to perdition by the just judgment of the Almighty!"**

Edward Gibbon, author of
"Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire": **"All is dark and doubtful!"**

Sir Francis Newport, the head of an English infidel club to those gathered around his deathbed: **"You need not tell me there is no God for I know there is one, and that I am in His presence! You need not tell me there is no hell. I feel myself already slipping. Wretches, cease your idle talk about there being hope for me! I know I am lost forever! Oh, that fire! Oh, the insufferable pangs of hell!"**

M.F. Rich: "Terrible horrors hang over my soul! I have given my immortality for gold; and its weight sinks me into a hopeless, helpless Hell!"

Thomas Paine, the leading atheistic writer in American colonies: "I would give worlds if I had them, that The Age of Reason had never been published. O Lord, help me! Christ, help me! . . No, don't leave; stay with me! Send even a child

to stay with me; for I am on the edge of Hell here alone. If ever the Devil had an agent, I have been that one."

Napoleon Bonaparte, the French emperor who brought death to millions to satisfy his selfish plans: **"I die before my time, and my body will be given back to the earth. Such is the fate of him who has been called the great Napoleon. What an abyss between my deep misery**

and the eternal kingdom of Christ!"

Aldamont, the infidel: **"My principles have poisoned my friend; my extravagance has beggared my boy; my unkindness has murdered my wife. And is there another hell yet ahead?"**

John Wilkes Booth, who assassinated Abraham Lincoln: **"Useless! Useless! The terrors before me!"**

Thomas Carlyle: **"I am as good as without hope; a sad**

old man gazing into the final chasm."

David Strauss, leading representative of German rationalism, after spending a lifetime erasing belief in God from the minds of others: **"My philosophy leaves me utterly forlorn! I feel like one caught in the merciless jaws of an automatic machine, not knowing at what time one of its great hammers may crush me!"**

Tallyrand was one of the most cunning French political leaders of the Napoleonic era. On a paper found at his death were these words: "**Behold eighty-three passed away! What cares! What agitation! What anxieties! What ill-will! What sad complications! And all without other results except great fatigue of mind and body, a profound sentiment of discouragement with regard**

to the future, and disgust with regard to the past!"

Some 15 years before his death, Mohandas K. Gandhi wrote: "I must tell you in all humility that Hinduism, as I know it, entirely satisfies my soul, fills my whole being, and I find a solace in the Bhagavad and Upanishads."

Just before his death, Gandhi wrote: **"My days are numbered. I am not likely to live very long-perhaps a year or a little more. For the**

first time in fifty years I find myself in the slough of despond. All about me is darkness; I am praying for light."

"What did you do to our daughter?" asked **a Moslem woman, whose child had died at 16 years of age.** "We did nothing," answered the missionary. **"Oh, yes, you did," persisted the mother.** **"She died smiling. Our people do not die like that."** **The girl had found Christ**

and believed on Him a few months before. Fear of death had gone. Hope and joy had taken its place.

In a Newsweek interview with **Svetlana Stalin**, the daughter of Josef Stalin, she told of her father's death: **"My father died a difficult and terrible death . . God grants an easy death only to the just. . At what seemed the very last moment he suddenly opened his eyes and cast a glance over**

everyone in the room. It was a terrible glance, insane or perhaps angry.. His left hand was raised, as though he were pointing to something above and bringing down a curse on us all. The gesture was full of menace.. The next moment he was dead."

Charles IX was the French king who, urged on by his mother, gave the order for the massacre of the Huguenots, in which 15,000 souls were

slaughtered in Paris alone and 100,000 in other sections of France, for no other reason than that they loved Christ. The guilty king suffered miserably for years after that event. He finally died, bathed in blood bursting from his veins. To his physicians he said in his last hours:

"Asleep or awake, I see the mangled forms of the Huguenots passing before me. They drop with blood. They point at their open

wounds. Oh! that I had spared at least the little infants at the breast! What blood! I know not where I am. How will all this end? What shall I do? I am lost forever! I know it. Oh, I have done wrong."

William E. Henley, an atheist, wrote a famous poem, the last two lines of which have often been quoted:

"Out of the night that covers me,

"Black as the pit from pole
to pole,

"I thank whatever gods may
be.

"Beyond this place of wrath
and tears

"Looms but the horror of
the shade;

"And yet the menace of the
years

"Finds, and shall find, me
unafraid.

"It matters not how strait
the gate,

"How charged with
punishment the scroll,

"I am the master of my fate;

"I am the captain of my
soul."

Men who have been bold in
their defiance of God have
lauded Henley's poem, but
most of them were not aware
that William Henley later
committed suicide.

Few men in Europe have
tried to eradicate the Bible
and the knowledge of God
from the minds of the people

as did the French infidel, Voltaire. The Christian physician who attended Voltaire during his last illness later wrote about the experience:

"When I compare the death of a righteous man, which is like the close of a beautiful day, with that of Voltaire, I see the difference between bright, serene weather and a black thunderstorm. It was my lot that this man should die

under my hands. Often did I tell him the truth. 'Yes, my friend,' he would often say to me, 'you are the only one who has given me good advice. Had I but followed it, I should not be in the horrible condition in which I now am. I have swallowed nothing but smoke. I have intoxicated myself with the incense that turned my head. You can do nothing for me. Send me an insane

**doctor! Have compassion
on me-! am mad!**

**"I cannot think of it
without shuddering. As
soon as he saw that all the
means he had employed to
increase his strength had
just the opposite effect
death was constantly before
his eyes. From this moment,
madness took possession
of his soul. He expired
under the torments of the
furies."**

Fearful Last Words:

Cardinal Borgia: “I have provided in the course of my life for everything except death, and now, alas, I am to die unprepared.”

Elizabeth the First: “All my possessions for one moment of time.”

Kurt Cobain (suicide note): “Frances and Courtney, I’ll be at your altar. Please keep going Courtney, for Frances. For her life will be

so much happier without me. I love you. I love you.”

Ludwig van Beethoven:
“Too bad, too bad! It’s too late!”

Thomas Hobbs: “I am about to take my last voyage, a great leap in the dark.”

Anne Boleyn: “O God, have pity on my soul. O God, have pity on my soul.”

Prince Henry of Wales:
“Tie a rope round my body, pull me out of bed, and lay

me in ashes, that I may die with repentant prayers to an offended God. O! I in vain wish for that time I lost with you and others in vain recreations.”

Socrates: “All of the wisdom of this world is but a tiny raft upon which we must set sail when we leave this earth. If only there was a firmer foundation upon which to sail, perhaps some divine word.”

Sigmund Freud: “The meager satisfaction that man can extract from reality leaves him starving.”

Tony Hancock (British comedian): “Nobody will ever know I existed. Nothing to leave behind me. Nothing to pass on. Nobody to mourn me. That’s the bitterest blow of all.”

Phillip III, King of France: “What an account I shall have to give to God! How I

should like to live otherwise than I have lived.”

Luther Burbank: “**I don’t feel good.”**

Voltaire (skeptic): “**I am abandoned by God and man! I will give you half of what I am worth if you will give me six months’ life. Then I shall go to hell; and you will go with me. O Christ! O Jesus Christ!”**

(The talented French writer once said of Jesus, “Curse the wretch!” He stated, “Every

sensible man, every honorable man, must hold the Christian sect in horror ...Christianity is the most ridiculous, the most absurd and bloody religion that has ever infected the world.”) He also boasted, “In twenty years Christianity will be no more. My single hand shall destroy the edifice it took twelve apostles to rear.” **Some years later, Voltaire’s house was used by the Geneva Bible Society to print Bibles.**

Aldus Huxley (humanist):
“It is a bit embarrassing to have been concerned with the human problem all one’s life and find at the end that one has no more to offer by way of advice than ‘Try and be a little kinder.’”

Karl Marx: “Go on, get out! Last words are for fools who haven’t said enough!”

Napoleon: “I marvel that where the ambitious dreams of myself and of Alexander and of Caesar should have

vanished into thin air, a Judean peasant—Jesus—should be able to stretch his hands across the centuries, and control the destinies of men and nations.”

Leonardo da Vinci: “I have offended God and mankind because my work did not reach the quality it should have.”

Tolstoy: “Even in the valley of the shadow of

death, two and two do not make six.”

Benjamin Franklin: “**A dying man can do nothing easy.”**

Grotius: “**I have lived my life in a laborious doing of nothing.”**

H. G. Wells: “**Go away: I’m alright.”**

General John Sedgwick (during the heat of battle in 1864): “**They couldn’t hit an elephant at this dist...!”**

Bing Crosby: “**That was a great game of golf.**”

Mahatma Ghandi: “**I am late by ten minutes. I hate being late. I like to be at the prayer punctually at the stroke of five.**”

Diana (Spencer), Princess of Wales: “**My God. What’s happened?**” (per police files)

Douglas Fairbanks, Sr.: “**Never felt better.**”

Franklin D. Roosevelt: “**I have a terrific headache.**”

Sal Mineo: (stabbed through the heart): **“Oh God! No! Help! Someone help!”**

Jesse James: **“It’s awfully hot today.”**

Lee Harvey Oswald: **“I will be glad to discuss this proposition with my attorney, and that after I talk with one, we could either discuss it with him or discuss it with my attorney, if the attorney thinks it is a wise thing to do, but at the**

present time I have nothing more to say to you.”

Vincent Van Gogh: “I shall never get rid of this depression.”

James Dean: “My fun days are over.”

Oscar Wilde: “My wallpaper and I are fighting a duel to the death. One or the other of us has to go . . .”

W. C. Fields: “I’m looking for a loophole.”

Louis XVII: “I have something to tell you . . .”

Jonathan Edwards: “Trust in God and you shall have nothing to fear.”

Patrick Henry: “Doctor, I wish you to observe how real and beneficial the religion of Christ is to a man about to die . . .” In his will he wrote: “This is all the inheritance I give to my dear family. The religion of Christ which will give them one

which will make them rich indeed.”

John Owen: “I am going to Him whom my soul loveth, or rather who has loved me with an everlasting love, which is the sole ground of all my consolation.”

D. L. Moody: “I see earth receding; heaven is opening. God is calling me.”

Lew Wallace (author of Ben Hur): “Thy will be done.”

Alexander Hamilton: “I have a tender reliance on

the mercy of the Almighty, through the merits of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am a sinner. I look to Him for mercy.”

William Shakespeare: “I commend my soul into the hands of God my Creator, hoping and assuredly believing, through the only merits of Jesus Christ my Savior, to be made partaker of life everlasting; and my body to the earth, whereof it was made.”

Martin Luther: “Into Thy hands I commend my spirit! Thou hast redeemed me, O God of truth.”

John Milton (British poet): “Death is the great key that opens the palace of Eternity.”

Sir Walter Raleigh (at his execution): “So the heart be right, it is no matter which way the head lieth.”

Daniel Webster (just before his death): “The great mystery is Jesus Christ—

the gospel. What would the condition of any of us be if we had not the hope of immortality? . . . Thank God, the gospel of Jesus Christ brought life and immortality to light.” His last words were: “I still live.”

General William Booth (to his son): **“And the homeless children, Bramwell, look after the homeless. Promise me . . .”**

David Livingstone: “**Build me a hut to die in. I am going home.**”

Charles Dickens: “**I commit my soul to the mercy of God, through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and I exhort my dear children humbly to try and guide themselves by the teaching of the New Testament.**”

Andrew Jackson: “**My dear children, do not grieve for me . . . I am my God’s. I**

belong to Him. I go but a short time before you, and ...I hope and trust to meet you all in heaven."

Isaac Watts (hymn-writer):
"It is a great mercy that I have no manner of fear or dread of death. I could, if God please, lay my head back and die without terror this afternoon."

"It has been said that the lives of the early Christians consisted of "persecution

above ground and prayer below ground."

Their lives are expressed by the Coliseum and the catacombs. Beneath Rome are the excavations which we call the catacombs, whivch were at once temples and tombs. The early Church of Rome might well be called the Church of the Catacombs. There are some sixty catacombs near Rome, in which some six hundred miles of galleries have been traced, and these are not all. These galleries are about

eight feet high and from three to five feet wide, containing on either side several rows of long, low, horizontal recesses, one above another like berths in a ship. In these the dead bodies were placed and the front closed, either by a single marble slab or several great tiles laid in mortar. On these slabs or tiles, epitaphs or symbols are graved or painted. Both pagans and Christians buried their dead in these catacombs. When the Christian graves have

been opened the skeletons tell their own terrible tale. Heads are found severed from the body, ribs and shoulder blades are broken, bones are often calcined from fire. But despite the awful story of persecution that we may read here, the inscriptions breathe forth peace and joy and triumph. Here are a few:

"Here lies Marcia, put to rest in a dream of peace."

"Lawrence to his sweetest son, borne away of angels."

"Victorious in peace and in Christ."

"Being called away, he went in peace."

Remember when reading these inscriptions the story the skeletons tell of persecution, of torture, and of fire.

But the full force of these epitaphs is seen when we contrast them with the pagan epitaphs, such as:

"Live for the present hour, since we are sure of nothing else."

"I lift my hands against the gods who took me away at the age of twenty though I had done no harm."

"Once I was not. Now I am not. I know nothing about it, and it is no concern of mine."

"Traveler, curse me not as you pass, for I am in darkness and cannot answer."

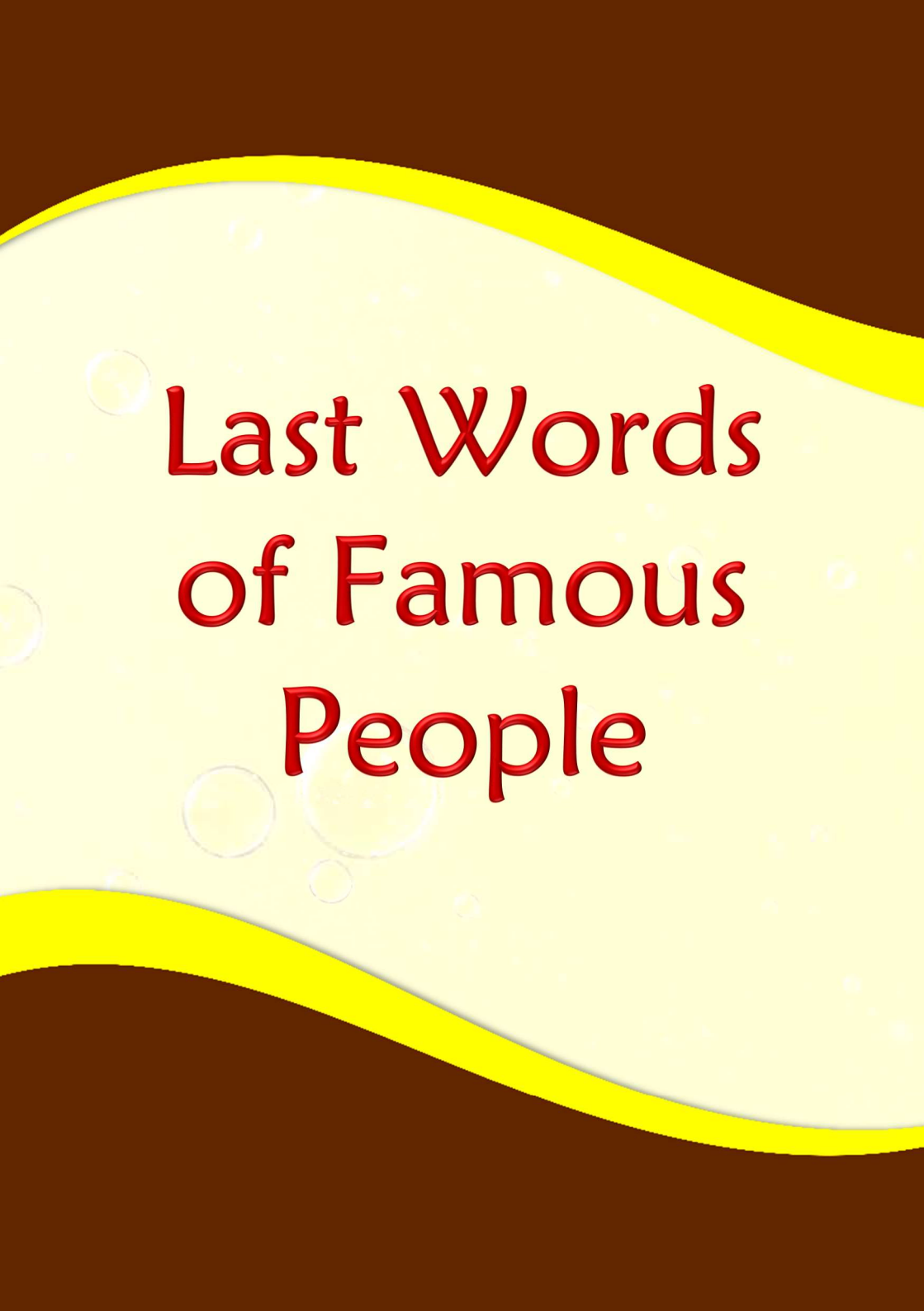
The most frequent Christian symbols on the walls of the catacombs, are, the good shepherd with the lamb on his shoulder, a ship under full sail, harps,

anchors, crowns, vines, and
above all the fish.””

Fox's Book of Martyrs







Last Words of Famous People