Lord Mayor of London, in 1556, for the teaching of "grammar and good manners" to the children of the poor. Here young Bunyan does not seem to have profited much by the moral instruction imparted, for he himself tells us—doubtless, however, with the exaggeration common to enthusiastic converts from any evil habit—that from a child he had but few equals "for cursing, swearing, lying, and blaspheming the holy name of God. Yea, so settled and rooted was I in these things, that they became as a second nature to me." His parents do not appear to have been in any way to blame for this singular youthful depravity. On the contrary, the inference is that they set him a good example, and were grieved on account of his evil ways. In his boyhood, Bunyan was tormented with strange dreams at night, and stranger fancies by day. Evil spirits flitted round his bed, and sought to drag him down with them to the realms of everlasting perdition. And in the morning, those creations of the night remained clear and distinct in all their dreadful outlines before his mind's eye, and disturbed his boyish soul "with the thoughts of the fearful torments of hell-fire," and the prospect of eternal bondage in "outer darkness," with only devils and fiends for companions. In the midst of play with his comrades, thoughts of the dread realities of heaven and hell would steal unbidden upon him, spoil all his interest in the game, and distract him with fear. But still he went on cursing and swearing as before, and entering with zest into all those sports which, in after years, he came to look upon with so much horror. The notion, however, that Bunyan was a sinner beyond all others in his neighbourhood should be guarded against. He was neither a sensualist nor a drunkard; and though he himself sanctions the notion that he was occasionally guilty of petty larceny, his most deadly sins, in his own estimation, consisted of a love for dancing on the village green, playing at tip-cat, and ringing the bells of the church on Sunday after the congregation had dispersed. All these things, notwithstanding his grim