

pected visits that I may see what progress they are making in cleanliness.

Said a coloured girl one day, "why did you not call and see us to-day? I had the house scrubbed for you."

I am often asked to advise as to what kind of a dress will be the best to buy, and sometimes am requested to make little purchases, and in this way I gain the confidence of the families. Of course, I am an authority on the latest fashions, which rules as supremely in Barrack Street as in other places.

It is a matter of regret, to find much evil speaking of neighbors and great curiosity to know what their neighbors have said about them. I point out the evil of this practice, and to a considerable extent have lessened the evil, at least while talking with me. A great mistake in their creed is the belief that because their lot is hard here, they must be better off hereafter. And this they expect without reference to any moral change. I find that early religious training leaves indelible traces, and those who have had most care taken of them when young, resist temptation the longest and sink the slowest into the depths of sin.

I have endeavoured to present religion in the aspect of an elevating force, which lifts up down-trodden humanity and makes men and women happier, by making their homes brighter, cleaner and more attractive. These influences are the handmaids of religion, and I find that those who learn of me most diligently how to keep their houses, will listen all the more attentively when I read the Bible to them. I find I have the confidence of many a house I visit, and am therefore not deceived by those false appearances which are often assumed to gain benefits of money or clothing from benevolent clergymen, or christian gentlemen and ladies who visit the poor.

In visiting Roman Catholics, I, as a rule, do not give anything, for they would be apt to think such benefits were only conferred to buy them over from their faith. Four-fifths of the people I visit, never put their foot inside a Church. It follows therefore, that they are ignorant of much that Christian children are familiar with. They have low views of God, and scarce any knowledge of their own souls. Of Heaven, Hell and Immortality, they are ignorant and superstitious and are afraid of ghosts, and place great confidence in dreams about future events. And in all that relates to the spiritual world and eternity they are much in the state which missionaries describe as characteristic of the heathen. Many are so hardened as to be careless of death, and there is little of that love which is so beautiful a bond in the Christian household. There is a great deal of wife beating and cruelty to children. The consequences are

jealousy and hatred, hearthburnings and sorrow. Children are saucy to parents, and parents are often unreasonably cruel to their offspring. In a few houses there is not a single bedstead. The people lying on their rags in a corner. And in many rooms there is abject poverty, and want which it has not entered into my hearers' hearts to conceive.

I have been near two years in the mission work, and the conclusion at which I arrive is that there is still much work to be done, which it is the duty of the church to have done. For if these were not visited they would never hear the Gospel, and many of them would not understand a sermon if they were brought to listen to it. May our earnest prayer to God be, that His Spirit may be poured out, that these dry bones may live.

## Our Foreign Missions.

### NEW HEBRIDES MISSION.

No letters, so far as we are aware, either to the Secretary of the Board or to friends, have been received from any of our missionaries during the past month. We therefore avail ourselves of the opportunity of laying before our readers an able and most interesting paper on Erromanga, from the pen of Rev. Mr. McNair, who is, and we ask all our readers to remember the fact, one of the missionaries of our own Church of the Lower Provinces. Mr. McNair having been recently from Scotland, has addressed the subjoined appeal to the students of the Free College, Glasgow, designed to interest them in the mission, and sent the paper to us for perusal. Believing that its publication here would be gratifying and useful to our whole Church, we retained a copy, and feel persuaded that the ministers and students will read it with deep interest, and that its perusal will tend to add volume and intensity to the prayers now being offered throughout the Church on behalf of Erromanga.

We also publish letters from the missionaries of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland on the New Hebrides. The acquaintance of large numbers in our congregations with Mrs. Copeland, formerly Mrs. S. F. Johnson, and with Mrs. Neilson, formerly Miss Lucy Geddie, will give addi-