

In Tonquin, the person who comes to pray at the temple writes his prayer on a leaf or some light substance, and gives it to the priest, who reads it aloud before the idol, and then burns it in a vessel of smoking incense, while the man lies on his face upon the floor, and fancies that the smoke from his burning prayer takes up his wish to God.

We have an incense in which to send up our prayers, but you know it is the incense of Jesus's merit.

In Africa there is a tribe of people who go in crowds at certain times to the side of a river, where a large tree grows, which they worship, and say their prayers to it. If the women want anything they tell it to the men, and they ask the tree for it, for the women are not thought worthy of speaking to the tree. If you saw a Brahmin in India at his prayers, you would certainly think him mad. You would see him standing before an ugly idol, and making strange motions. Now he strikes his elbows against his sides, then snaps with his fingers round about his head, stamps with his left foot upon the ground, and beats his cheeks with his right hand, and mutters all the time most strange and unearthly sounds. How different is this to the way our Saviour has taught us! My dear children, do not put down this paper to laugh at the heathen, but to do these three things.

First, To come *yourself* to God in prayer by faith in Christ, and no longer mock him with mere *words* without *wishes*, or even *wishes* without *faith*.

Secondly, Pity the poor blind heathen who, in his darkness, often longs with more sincerity than you with all your light; and,

Thirdly, Be grateful to God who has cast your lot in a better country, and amidst better teachers. How much do you owe to him for all the privileges you possess?

Sketches of Missions.

WESLEYAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

You will remember that in the last number of the