

tude and found myself dwelling on the boundless mercies which God manifested even in the rational world, until every eye was suffused in tears, and every lip ready to give utterance to praise. In one place, near Gonkar, where we had a considerable audience to which we had been preaching for a long time, a mighty impression was produced, and suddenly a woman far advanced in life gave vent to her pent up feelings, by exclaiming, with sudden impetuosity, "How great is our sin, how deep is our crime! that we have rejected love so divine, and cast from us compassion so precious." I told them that my fellow-labourers would remain among them, and devote themselves entirely to their spiritual welfare; and so great was their delight—so great was the joy which the communication produced—that almost every rock and cliff reverberated with acclamations and good wishes for our future welfare. In another village, where we had a large native audience, so anxious were these poor people to hear the tidings of the Gospel, that none felt weary, none felt tired; and notwithstanding the difficulty we had in explaining ourselves, and expressing our exact meaning, in consequence of not being well versed in the language, after some time the whole assembly suddenly rose and exclaimed, "You tell us good words: God has directed your steps towards the benighted land." There were many other villages in which we met with a similar reception, and I can triumphantly say, whatever the immediate effects of our preaching in Abyssinia may have been, I believe that it will, in the providence of God lead to nothing less than the conversion of the remnant of the children of Israel in that country. God himself directed our steps thither, and it was the Spirit of God which prepared the hearts of his people for the reception of the truth as it is in Christ Jesus. In our visit to the High Priest of the Abyssinian Jews we expected to meet with a great many difficulties, and also with some hostility to our work, because all the priests understood perfectly well, that if it succeeded it would ultimately sweep away their whole religious system, and put an end to their priestly power and domination. Contrary, however, to our expectations the High Priest of the Jews, who was surrounded by about forty of his subordinate priests, and at least double the number of laymen, received us with the greatest cordiality, and indeed, with a kindness that was truly gratifying. He was a man I suppose about sixty years of age, with a fine imposing figure, lofty forehead, eyes restless and full of fire; a countenance which at one time, no doubt, had been mild, and pleasing, but now, from the continual infliction of various penances, stern and repulsive. When the procession approached the place where we had taken our seats, we immediately arose,—a compliment which they gratefully acknowledged,—and then the whole multitude divided themselves and seated themselves on the right and the left of our shady retreat. There was, in fact, as it were, a canal, bounded by human banks, established between the High Priest and the common people, so that the one could not come into contact with the other. It was an affecting sight to see so many of these people sitting before the missionaries, yearning to hear the truths of the Gospel. There sat the old priests, with their