

ruption of human nature, upon which the rest are founded, are pressed upon us by daily experience; and as these are the most offensive, after believing firmly in their truth, the others become easy. Indeed the great labour and danger that a Missionary encounters in going to a savage nation, are sufficient of themselves to interest us in his welfare, and when we get interested, we are constrained to encourage and support him. We ask ourselves what he is going to teach, and the motives that direct him, and by answering such questions, our knowledge is refreshed, and we are ashamed not to be able to give a reason for the faith that is in us: we are not long satisfied with a cursory view of the doctrines of our religion; for if our minds continue serious, we put ourselves in the place of the Missionary, and consider what we would say to a Jew, a Mahometan, or Heathen, to induce them to become Christians. Nor will this fail of taking hold of our affections, and of producing that disposition of mind which ought to attend such labours.

Thus a more correct and devout knowledge of the Scriptures, a greater zeal, a more fervent spirit of prayer, attend Missionary exertions; so that as the Heathens are turned from darkness to light, those by whom they are converted become more and more perfect. There is a species of reaction accompanying this labour of love; every principle of Christian duty is brought into vigilant operation, faith, hope, and charity are employed, and the kingdom of Jesus is enlarged both at home and abroad.

In contemplating the Missionary labours of the present age, there are two things worthy of notice, which are in some degree opposite to one another, and both inconsistent with the true spirit of the Gospel:

1st.—A Missionary is deemed by many persons a term of ignominy and reproach—every thing base and contemptible is associated with the name, and this not by the enemies of the faith, but by many who deem themselves its most steady supporters. This is the more extraordinary, as the Apostles and their Disciples were undoubtedly Missionaries in the fullest sense of the word. They were selected to preach the Gospel among Jews and Gentiles, and yet those very persons, who rail against Missionaries of the present times, have no quarrel with them. St. Paul travelled through many nations, teaching the religion of the blessed Jesus; the different quarters of the world witnessed his labours; the