

Missionary Intelligence.

THE PITCAIRN PASTOR IN ENGLAND.

Poor Mr. Nobbs had not fitting clothes in which to face the great world, when he quitted the island, except those with which the admiral furnished him. Having carried him to Valparaiso, the admiral then supplied him generously with the means of obtaining a passage thence to London, and presented him with £100 towards his expenses in England; and also gave him very strong letters to the Bishop of London (urging the propriety of his ordaining so exemplary a person,) and to various other persons, among whom was Mr. Murray, the author of the little volume before us, in which it appears; and a very interesting document it is. All honor to Admiral Fairfax Moresby! We have seldom seen more moving traits of unaffected and unassuming goodness than this volume contains, on his part. He cannot yet know that the public is thus made acquainted with them.

On Sunday, the 19th of October, 1852, after an absence of twenty-six years, spent at Pitcairn's Island, this excellent person arrived in London. What a Babylon it must have seemed to one so long accustomed to the profound silence and solitude of Pitcairn! We ourselves saw him, and sat beside him for some time in the month of November.—He was indeed an interesting stranger—very modest, and with a sort of sad and stern simplicity (with a dash of rough quaintness) in his manner, which comported well with the life he had led, and to which it was evident he was pining to return. He looked the age he was, viz: fifty-three. His features were characterised by a quiet decision, and he spoke with gravity and deliberation.—Nothing seemed to surprise him—the result of a long life of anxiety, suffering and labor. None of the attractions, says a friend, or absorbing topics of interest—not even the great Duke's funeral, which he witnessed—seemed to excite him. So sustained, and built up, and built round by previous experience of wonder and escapes amidst the battle of life was this wonderful man, that he had literally reached the point of *Nil admirari!*

Is Ordained by the Bishop of London.

The Bishop of London, yielding cheerfully to the concurrent testimony of Admiral Moresby, and many others who had enjoyed ample opportunities of learning the character of the late Mr. Nobbs, during a long career of twenty-six years, at Pitcairn's Island, acceded to his request to be admitted to holy orders.—On the 24th October, 1852, he was ordained deacon in the parish church of Ikington, by the Bishop of Sierra Leone, under a commission from the Bishop of London, who himself ordained him priest at Fulham Church, on the 30th November; his description, in the latter of orders, being "Chaplain of Pitcairn's Island." He was warmly welcomed and hospitably entertained by the greatest and best in the land; and a number of them subscribed towards raising a little fund for defraying the expense of his return to Pitcairn, and his outfit—a service of communion-plate, and also various useful articles for the inhabitants, a bell for the Church, two or three clocks, medicines, clothing, labourers and carpenters' tools, simple articles of furniture, cooking utensils, and stores of provisions.* These benefactors of the distant little community wisely determined to send them such articles only as shall contribute to their comfort, without communicating a taste for luxury; than which last, nothing could be more absurd or cruel. Since he left this country, we may mention that an excellent little church-organ has been despatched to the pastor—we must now call him the chaplain—of Pitcairn, set to such of our plain and hallowed old English chants and psalm tunes, as he appeared, when in this country, best to like. By this time, it may be that our noble evening hymn, which is one of them, has ascended from that little rock to heaven's gate, a grateful offering.

The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge granted £100 towards the fund for the purpose above-mentioned, and the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel placed him on its list of missionaries, with a salary of £50 a year. In short, all parties who became acquainted with him during his two month's stay, and with his story, seemed to vie with each other in paying attention to him, and exhibiting their interest by their liberality. At the Admiralty he experienced through the Duke of Northumberland, and other eminent functionaries, the utmost kindness, and assurance

* H. M. S. *Uruga*, says Mr. Murray (p. 85, note.) "Left Pitcairn, in January, 1853, having on board planting-tools, rice trees, &c., for the Islanders." A touching circumstance

of the watchful interest with which the small settlement should ever be regarded there: and the Directors of the Royal Mail Steam Navigation Company provided him with a free passage in the *La Plata* to Navy Bay.

To be Continued.

Youth's Department.

THE LITTLE CHILD'S PRAYER.

I am a little child, you see,
My strength is little too,
But yet I fain would saved be;
Lord teach me what to do.

My Saviour, hear; Thou for my good,
Wert pleased a child to be:
And thou didst shed Thy precious blood
Upon the cross for me.

My dearest Saviour, tell me how
My thankfulness to show,
For all Thy love before and now,
Else I shall never know.

I think, since I so often hear
That Thou dost want my heart,
As Thy reward and purchase dear,
That Thou in earnest art.

Come then, and take this heart of mine—
Come, take me as I am,
I know that I by right am thine,
Thou loving, gracious Lamb.

But I am weak, and nothing can
Without Thy Spirit do;
Help me, O thou Almighty One,
Help my companions too.

Preserve our little hearts secure
From every hurt and stain;
First make them, and then keep them pure,
And shut out all that's vain.

EARLY EDUCATION.—We (the parents) had determined, from the beginning, to act in perfect unison—if there should, at any time, occur an unavoidable difference in opinion, never to let him (our son) perceive it. If I had been unreasonable in demanding more than was to be fairly expected, or in insisting on what was in his circumstances, impracticable, his mother was uniformly silent before him, and showed me, while alone, the extravagance of my requisitions—thus affording me an opportunity of averting or correcting any evil that might have been threatened or produced—without begetting in his mind a notion that he might calculate upon a rivalry betwixt the sternness of a father, and the excessive indulgence of a mother. He ever considered us as one.

We never employed the ordinary and vulgar method of frightening him into obedience, Nothing but ignorance and weakness will resort to expedients which produce, in many, and even in some powerful minds, distressing associations, which no future instructions or reasonings can totally dissolve; and which are, not unfrequently, the foundation of mental habits, which destroy the entire comfort of future life, lead to the madhouse, or terminate in suicide. Never, to the moment of his entrance upon the unseen world, did he know the torment of a superstitious apprehension.

It was an essential part of our plan never either to deceive him, or suffer him to be deceived. We carried this into everything. One deception discovered by a child—and children are adepts at making such discoveries)—will ever shake that perfect confidence on which a parent has to calculate as the main assistant in a moral education. On this we rested a large share of our hope, and it never disappointed us. When about two years of age, he was afflicted with an inflammation of the lungs, which rendered respiration difficult. Incapable of transferring so precious a charge to other hands, we sat up with him, watched, wept, and prayed over him, as he lay dozing or restless. It was necessary he should take medicine. This he refused, saying, 'I can't, papa, it makes me sick.' I answered, 'My dear it will make you sick; I know it is unpleasant, but it must be taken. You will be the better for it afterwards.' This reasoning making, as may be imagined, little impression, in opposition to his feelings, I deemed it necessary to add, in a tone perfectly understood. Unpleasant as it is, you must and shall take it.' As he never knew us promise or threaten in vain, the case was instantly decided, and he never, from that time, refused any draught however nauseous. This saved us much future perplexity.

He was never permitted to carry a point by impertinence. We strove early to establish in his mind conviction of our superior wisdom, and of a disposition to do everything which, in our judgement, could make him happy. Do you not think, we know what is the best for

you? 'Yes.' Do you not know that we love, so well to keep from you anything that would make you happy? 'Yes.' Well, then, why do you ask a time for what we would have given you at once if been proper? After some such short dialogues as was almost needless to say more. He might, a few times, have urged a request, with the usual proofs of its inefficacy, there never was occasion to speak twice. Why will any parents, to save themselves the pain of a momentary decision, encourage practice which when formed into a habit, is equally injurious to one party, and vexatious to the other? A child that can conquer, by cries or entreaty, one twenty times, will be sure always to make the effort, however the chances may be against him, and intent on its object, will convert the mere possibility of success into a sufficient probability to justify the perpetual attempt.

We were equally anxious never to be conquered by his obstinacy. As he was to reign only in our affections, our will, when once announced, was the law of the house. In cases where his mind was capable of perceiving the reasons of a decision, we often assigned them; but anxious to convince him that there always were reasons, we demanded an entire acquiescence in our determination, whether he saw its reasonableness or not; assuring him, that he would himself, when older and wiser, see that we had done right. When about two years of age, the question was brought to a practical issue; he obstinately refused for two hours to comply with a demand from his mother to beg her pardon for an offence. She was inflexible: and at length he modestly turned round, submissively fell on his knees at her feet, and, in the most penitent accents said, 'I beg your pardon, mamma, and will never be naughty again.' The consequence of this patient decision was permanent. I am confident, that from that moment to the hour of his death, he never meditated opposition to our will, nor said or did a thing of which he feared we might seriously disapprove.

THE INFANT IN HEAVEN.—"Mother! have they little harps in heaven, all shining, bright golden?—Brother was so small, you know he could not take the harps the angels play." This was a question which the mother, deeply interesting as it was to her, might not answer. But an answer was not then demanded: for the mind of the young inquirer had wandered far away and she sat gazing earnestly into "the blue depths of a summer sky, as if the green pastures and still waters of the better land opened on her vision.

Believing that our infant children are among the ransomed in heaven, shall we not also fully and cheerfully trust in the tenderness of the Saviour's love?—He who for our sakes became an infant, and in his humble birth place at Bethlehem reposed on the bosom of maternal love, who took little children in his arms, and of whom it is said, "He shall lead his flock like a shepherd, and carry the lambs in his bosom," surely understands their nature.—With "Israel's gentle shepherd," we may safely confide them: and though we miss the light of their smile and the joy of their love, it may comfort us to think, that

"While our silent steps are straying
Lonely through night's deepening shade,
Glory's brightest beams are playing
Round the immortal spirit's head."

Mother's Assistant.

Selections.

THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.—SERPENTS.—The companion monster to the cayman, is the prodigious boa-constrictor. The species is common in the Philippines, but it is rare to meet with a specimen of very large dimensions. The reason of this, according to M. de la Gironiere's belief or hypothesis, is, that centuries are necessary for this reptile to attain its largest size and to such an age the various accidents to which animals are exposed rarely suffer it to attain. Full sized boas are met with only in the gloomiest, most remote, and most solitary forests.

'I have seen many boas, says M. de la Gironiere, of ordinary size, such as are found in our European collections. There were some, indeed, that inhabited my house; and one night I found one, two yards long, in possession of my bed. Several times passing through the woods with my Indians, I heard the piercing cries of a wild boar. On approaching the spot whence they proceeded, we almost invariably, found a wild boar, about whose body a boa had twisted its folds, and was gradually hoisting him up into the tree round which it had coiled itself. When the wild boar had reached a certain height, the snake pressed him against the tree with a force that crushed his bones and stifled him