

haphazard hypothesis. The secret of nature was revealed in reason; the power of religion was revealed in Christ, and His religion was the supremest factor of the ordered life of man. He who most manifested this power had most in him of the Divine; but what did this do but show that there was most reason in the position of the evangelist? "The Only-Begotten who was in the bosom of the Father He hath declared Him."—*Christian World*.

SMASHING THE MICROSCOPE.

A story came to us from India a good many years ago of a Brahman to whom a missionary showed a microscope he had recently received from England. It was a very beautiful and valuable instrument of high powers, and fitted with all the then latest improvements. The missionary exhibited a number of objects to the Hindu's astonishment and keen delight. Presently he took a drop of stagnant water, focused it, and asked his native friend to look. The astonishment remained; the delight was gone. The Brahman took up the vessel of water, from which he had seen the missionary take the drop that he had been looking at, and carefully examined it. It was water from one of the 'tanks'—water such as we in England in these days of sanitary science should most certainly condemn as unfit for drinking purposes, but such as in India in those days was in regular use; such, indeed, as the Brahman had been using and would continue to use. Putting down the vessel of water, he stood for a moment or two in silent wonder and thought. Then he looked again through the microscope, and ever and anon there crossed the field of vision some minute organism, magnified into most palpable proportions, suggesting some one or other of the less pleasing forms of life with which he was familiar—at any rate, life. That was the horror of the revelation. The water in which he performed his religious ablutions, and, perhaps more fearful still, the water he drank, containing life! He, a good Brahmin, priding himself on his punctilious observance of all the laws and requirements of his caste, had been transgressing daily so simple, so well-known, so general a law as that against the destruction of animal life!

The poor man left the missionary's bungalow well-nigh distracted, suffering agonies which an average Englishman can hardly conceive. Some days afterwards he came back, saying that he wanted to buy the microscope. The missionary, however, had no wish to sell it. But the Brahman played the part of the importunate widow so effectively that he wearied the missionary into parting with his newly-acquired treasure. The

latter had no idea of what had been passing in the Hindu's mind, did not know the motive prompting this anxiety to become possessed of the microscope, and judged that he could send for another, and that so, after all, he would simply lose the use of his instrument for the time required for the mail to go and return. The Brahman paid the money and seized the microscope, and forthwith, without waiting to take it home, there, in the presence of the missionary, he most vigorously proceeded to smash it to pieces! This unexpected destruction by the Brahman of what he had been so eager to possess, and for which he had been ready to give any price asked, filled the missionary with astonishment and grief.

Why had he done it? It was that drop of water. He had scarcely been able to eat or drink or sleep since he had seen those squirming creatures. He would put an end to such revelations. That microscope should henceforward show to no other eyes what his had seen. He himself would see them no more.

He was not a very wise Brahman. There were other microscopes, even though, at some cost, he had destroyed that one. And moreover—microscopes or no microscopes—those creatures which he had seen were still generating in the water for him to drink. The microscope had not created; it had only revealed. He would have shown himself wiser had he sought to remedy rather than to shut his eyes to the evil, to have kept the microscope, at any rate as a means of discovering which tanks supplied the water that was freest from, and which the water that was most affected by, these minute forms of animal life.

But this Hindu was not the only man who has proved himself unwise. He simply acted as many men have acted from all time, and probably will continue to act for many years to come. King Ahab anticipated him centuries before, when he thought to change the course of events by threatening the prophet Micaiah with imprisonment; as did also King Jehoiakim when he threw into the fire the first edition of Jeremiah's roll, on which were written truths unpleasant to his royal ear. But the burning of the book did not annihilate the truth it contained in the case of the king, any more than smashing the microscope filtered the water in the case of the Brahman. And as Jehoiakim anticipated this method so men to-day repeat it. Has not a good verger been heard of who thought that in some mysterious way he warmed the church by industriously applying a candle to the thermometer? And is it not possible that I, and even perhaps some of my readers, are unconsciously acting in much the same way, confusing indicators with regulators, closing the eyes against warnings which tell of things evil, instead of opening them to search out a remedy for the evils re-