

MISERIES OF INDOLENCE.

None so little enjoy life, and are such burdens to themselves, as those who have nothing to do—for

“A want of occupation is not rest—

A mind quite vacant is a mind distressed.”

Such a man is not of God's order; and opposing his obvious design in the faculties he has given him, and in the condition in which he has placed him. Nothing therefore, is promised in the Scripture to the indolent. Take the indolent with regard to exertion. What indecision! What delay! What reluctance! What apprehension!—The slothful man says, “there is a lion without, and I shall be slain in the street.”—“The way of the slothful man is a hedge of thorns; but the way of the righteous is made plain.” Take him with regard to health. What sluggishness of circulation! What depression of spirits! What dulness of appetite! What enervation of frame!—Take him with regard to temper and enjoyment. Who is pettish and fretful? Who feels wanton and childish cravings? Who is too soft to bear any of the hardships of life? Who broods over every vexation and inconvenience? Who not only increases real, but conjures up imaginary evils, and gets no sympathy from any one in either?—Who feels time wearisome and irksome?—Who is devoured by ennui and spleen?—Who oppress others with their company, and their censorious talk? The active only have the true relish of life. He who knows not what it is to labor, knows not what it is to enjoy. Recreation is only valuable as it unbends us; the idle know nothing of it.—It is exertion that renders rest delightful, and sleep sweet and undisturbed. That the happiness of life depends on the regular prosecution of some laudable purpose or lawful calling which engages, helps, and enlivens all our powers, let those bear witness who after spending years in active usefulness retire to enjoy themselves. Prayer should always be offered up for their servants and wives, and themselves too. The indolent are a burden to themselves.—*W. Jay.*

BUILDING ON THE SAND.

“And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house, and it fell: and great was the fall of it.”—*St. Matthew*, vii. 26, 27.

The fishermen of Bengal build their huts, in the dry season, on the beds of sand from which the river has retired. When the rains set in, which they often do very suddenly, accompanied with violent northwest winds, the water pours down in torrents from the mountains. In one night multitudes of these huts are frequently swept away, and the place where they

stood is the next morning unrecognizable. A traveller states:—

“It so happened that we were to witness one of the greatest calamities that occurred in Egypt, in the recollection of any one living. The Nile rose this season three feet and a half above the highest mark left by the former inundation, with uncommon rapidity, and carried off several villages, and some hundreds of their inhabitants. I never saw any picture that could give a more correct idea of the deluge, than the valley of the Nile in this season. The Arabs had expected an extraordinary inundation this year, in consequence of the scarcity of the water the preceding year; but they did not apprehend it would rise to such a height. They generally erect fences of earth and reeds round their villages, to keep the water from their houses; but the force of this inundation baffled all their efforts. Their cottages being built of earth, could not stand one instant the current; and no sooner did the water reach them, than it levelled them with the ground. The rapid stream carried off all that was before it; men, women, children, cattle, corn; everything was washed away in an instant, and left the place where the village stood without anything to indicate that there had ever been a house on the spot.—*Weekly Visitor.*”

MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.

AFRICA.—At the recent Jubilee Meeting of the Baptist Missionary Society, the Rev. J. CLARK, (Missionary from Africa), in seconding the Resolution, spoke to the following effect: My feelings are of a peculiar description. I know that there are, within these walls, hearts glowing with love to the Divine Redeemer; I know there are many here who have poured out their hearts at a throne of grace, on behalf of the Redeemer's kingdom. I am also persuaded that there are very many in this audience who have offered up their supplication, in an especial manner, for the success of the Mission to the coast of Western Africa. The resolution is one of a deeply interesting character, and one which affects my heart. It refers to the African race, and I have laboured among them for many years. I feel a peculiar interest in them, not altogether on account of the oppressions under which they have groaned, but also in consequence of their darkness and their superstition. I rejoice, in the words of the Resolution, that God, as the God of all grace, has given power to the word of his truth proclaimed in Jamaica, and that such wonderful effects have been produced by it. I rejoice in bearing my humble testimony to the zeal and fidelity of my brother missionaries in that land. (Hear, hear.) I have long been intimately acquainted with them all, and I know what their feelings have, many times, been, as well as my own, in keeping back from the churches those whose views of repentance were not so clear as they desired. Often tears have flowed from our eyes when we have been obliged thus to act with regard to persons whose change of character testified that a good work had been begun in them. (Hear, hear.) With respect to Africa, you are aware that missionaries have laboured there nearly fifty years. Most of you are acquainted with the labours of the devoted missionaries in Southern