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CONTENTS.

<p>EDITOR.—“We do not well,” - - - - 33</p> <p>FOREIGN MISSION.—Circulation of Scriptures at Aneiteum, - - - - 35</p> <p>Cruise of H. M. S. “Torch” in the South Seas, - - - - 35</p> <p>Letter to Rev. Mr Bayne from Mr. Stewart Bates, Glasgow, - - - - 37</p>	<p>THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION.—Claims and Duties of Theological Colleges, - - - - 38</p> <p>MISCELLANEOUS.—Turkish Missions, - - - - 41</p> <p>Letter dated Illinois, - - - - 48</p> <p>Missionaries in Slave States, - - - - 44</p> <p>China, &c. - - - - 45</p> <p>NOTICES. - - - - 30</p>
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“WE DO NOT WELL.”

THESE were the words of the four leprosy men, when they entered the camp of the Syrians, and partook abundantly of the spoil, which they had abandoned in their precipitate retreat: (2 Kings, viii 9). Samaria had been besieged for some time, so that the inhabitants were reduced to great distress for want of food. The description given of their condition is most harrowing. An ass’s head was sold for fourscore pieces of silver, and the fourth part of a cab of man’s dung for five pieces of silver.” “And the king of Israel was passing by upon the wall, there cried a woman unto him, saying, Help, my lord, O King! And he said, If the Lord do not help thee, whence shall I help thee? Out of the barnfloor, or of the winepress? And the king said unto her, What aileth thee? And she answered, This woman said unto me. Give thy son tomorrow. So we boiled my son and eat him; and I said unto her on the next day, Give thy son, that we may eat him; and she said she hath hid her son.” While

the city was in this condition, the Lord wrought for them a remarkable deliverance. A sound was heard in the Syrian camp as of an advancing army, in consequence of which they fled so precipitately as to leave their camp with all its contents. This was first discovered by the four lepers, who impelled by hunger had gone to seek relief among the Syrians. Finding the camp deserted, they ate and drank and took of the spoil. But soon the thought of their selfishness in feasting themselves and increasing their own stores, while so many of their brethren were perishing with hunger, arrested them, and they said one to another, “We do not well; this day is a day of good tidings, and we will hold our peace; if we tarry till the morning light, some mischief will come upon us. Now, therefore, come that we may tell the king’s household.”

May not the spirit here manifested in regard to temporal things afford a lesson to Christians as to spiritual. The word of God tells us of a famine more dreadful than any bodily want. “Behold the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in