

Further on Mr. Armstrong adds—

“As to measures, new or old, I have used none, or allowed none to be used, except calling upon those who had chosen Christ to separate themselves, in order to be instructed in classes and be carefully watched over so as to learn what manner of spirit they are of. I keep a book by me, in which I write the name of every individual who appears to be serious, and then I class them by neighbourhoods or villages, and meet them every week for instruction, conversation, prayer, &c. When I am satisfied with any one, I baptize him forthwith. I have now some hundreds in these classes, and of many there is hope that they have experienced the grace of God.

I have differed widely in my course from some of my brethren. As a faithful watchman, I could not, in the present state of society here, receive persons to the communion of the church, without pretty satisfactory evidence of their piety, and to have this evidence more time is necessary than we have yet had in this revival.

Some reasons for caution in this solemn business I will here state. 1. The natives are very excitable on any subject; and in the present state of society, especially so on the subject of religion. 2. In a number of instances the fairest appearances are found connected with the indulgence of secret iniquity. This is not uncommon among natives. 3. If they are real converts they will not be likely to fall away by being looked at a few months, especially if they enjoy constant instruction. 4. The history of excitements in these islands is calculated to produce caution. 5. A corrupt church is greatly to be dreaded, and to be avoided if possible.

In this revival I would acknowledge with devout gratitude the assistance I have received from several native church members, especially Bartimeus, whose labours have been signally blessed, as any one would suppose, who knows him. Some young men in the church have been filled with the Spirit, and would at times plead with sinners to be reconciled to God, as they would plead for their lives.

I might mention also that Mr. Green, of the female seminary, has assisted me much, although labouring almost exclusively in a separate sphere. The seminary has been blessed. Twelve of the young misses are now members of the church, and others will, I hope, soon be.

On the whole, the last has been a blessed year. It has been a year of the right hand of the Lord among us—a year of toil and yet of enjoyment. Blessed be the Lord our God forever. Let heaven and earth praise him.

Let the churches rejoice and take courage. They are now paid for all the money they have expended on this nation, with more than compound interest.”

TURKEY.

Mr. Goodell, in a visit to Trebigord, surveyed many scenes which gratified him highly by their natural beauty. But the moral contrast is distressing.

“If I had here some splendid views of God's creation, I saw also most painful exhibitions of the littleness, sordidness, and depravity of man. Wherever we stopped, we were immediately surrounded by boats with some scores of boatmen, all vociferating, yelling, hissing, imprecating curses, pushing, beating, &c. to the great danger, not only of property, but of limbs and lives. It seemed absolutely at the risk of one's life to attempt to get into one of their boats, until they had had their fight out with one another, and some of the more furious had already obtained some baggage, and pushed off for the shore. I never before saw any thing like it. The captain said that he had sometimes set the engines to work, and thrown cold water upon them by hogsheads, but to no purpose:—that boiling water, which would scald them to death, or something of that nature, would stop them, and nothing else, and all this lying, cursing, rending the very heavens with their clamor, injuring one another, endangering the property and lives of others, and cheating their own souls of an incorruptible inheritance, merely for a few paras! Man might here eat angels' food; might daily sit in heavenly places with Christ; might live for eternity; and might walk abroad on the earth with all the conscious dignity of an heir of heaven; but, like all our race in a natural state, they are the seed of the serpent; ‘and’ (saith the Scriptures) ‘dust shall be the serpent's meat.’ The very highest and best part of their nature is glued to the earth; and they are daily partakers of the serpent's curse,—‘they eat dust.’ I never before had such an impressive view of the nature of that dreadful curse, ‘On thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life.’ They ‘lick the dust like the serpent.’ They ‘pant after the dust of the earth.’ ‘They mind earthly things.’ And not one lifts up his head and says, ‘Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none on earth I desire besides thee.’ Oh! what a curse it is to live under the reign of sin, and to seek to have one's portion in this life! And the farther we go