

### WHAT WOULD THE WORLD BE WITHOUT THE GOSPEL.

A young man with sceptical tendencies demanded of his Christian friend *one* conclusive evidence that the gospel is Divine. His condition had become already perilous, for the reason that unsatisfactory investigations had led him to the verge of hopeless indifference. "Consider," said his friend, "what this community would be if every vestige of this gospel were immediately removed; every church demolished; every line of sacred literature blotted out; every Christian agency abolished—the entire population at this moment destitute of a single ray of gospel light. Imagine, if possible, such desolation; and then by way of contrast, think of our present exalted condition."

The serious thoughtfulness revealed in the countenance of the inquirer was the hopeful sign of his recovery from cheerless doubt. The view had not impressed him in precisely such a manner before. It is reasonable to believe that the suggestion made a lasting impression upon his mind. The authoritative proof, arising from other forms of Christian evidence, was not, in his case, equal to this simple appeal made by human lips. Reflection upon the beneficial results achieved in society through the truth of God compelled him at last, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to an unreserved submission of his whole heart to Him.—*Sci.*

### "PAY JOHN WILLIAMS."

At a prayer-meeting "down East," a man noted for his failures to meet business obligations, arose to speak. The subject was: "What shall I do to be saved?" He commenced slowly to quote the words: "What shall I do to be saved?" He paused looked around and said again: "What shall I do to be saved?" Again with more solemn tones he repeated the question of questions, when a voice from the assembly in clear and distinct tones replied: "Go and pay John Williams for that yoke of oxen."

The incident stirs up solemn thought. A great many people before they can be saved, or guide others to the Saviour, will have to "go and pay John Williams" the money they honestly owe him. Shrewd tricksters in the marts of the world are not shrewd enough to be dishonest at heart and retain the favor of God who

"loves purity in the inward parts." Neither can a hope of the world to come be like a sheet-anchor in the soul of any one who robs God by being dishonest to his fellow-man.

Thousands read no other Bible than the lives of those who profess to be following its precepts in their daily lives. The greatest need of the Church is true, pure, upright living—"living epistles, known and read of all men." The square man is the best shape. The tree is known by its fruit. "Go and pay John Williams."—*Mid-Continent.*

### SUCCESS OF MELA WORK IN INDIA.

In the *Life and Work of Christ*, published lately by some Hindu, the author laments the fact that lacs of people (that means, hundreds of thousands) are becoming Christians, and appeals most earnestly to the adherents of the Hindu faith to copy the examples of missionaries who are to be found at all the melas and principal places of pilgrimage, etc., to stem the tide of Christianity which is flowing over the land.

Well might the priests feel bitter towards us when they see that by our labours their gain is going. Some few years ago the offerings at the temple at Baignath amounted to a lac of rupees (£10,000) on the two days of this mela. Now they amount to not quite half that sum by Rs. 40,000 (or £4000). Upon asking the reason why there is such a falling off, they told me thus: 'You are the reason; you preach against our religion; you sell your religious books to the people; they read them in their houses, and no fear of us and our gods come into their hearts.' We thank God for such testimony that the silent messengers (the Gospels) are doing such sure work amongst the people.—*Rev. B. Evans in Missionary Herald.*

### FAMILY WORSHIP.

Blessed are those homes which are hallowed by daily prayer. They are blessed now, and their memory will be a benediction when the children have gone forth into new homes of their own. Alas that any home, particularly and professedly Christian home, should be without this great privilege, this great safeguard, this means of preparation for the heavenly home!—*Illustrated Christian Weekly.*