

ways and thoughts. The difficulty is, "why does not God think as I do; and act as I think He should." In short the difficulty is one of rationalism and not of faith. The same faith that enables us to accept all the other mysteries of our faith, and wait patiently for their explanation in the

future, enables us to accept of this truth also. "These shall go away into everlasting fire but the righteous into life eternal." It may seem hard thus to condemn eternally, but we may rest assured that God is not less just, or less merciful, than we, His sinful creatures.

CHRISTIAN LIFE.

LIFE AND ADVENTURES OF JAMES HAMPTON,

FOUNDER OF THE MISSION TO THE BLIND,
IN CONNECTION WITH THE METROPOLITAN
TABERNACLE.

BY G. HOLDEN PIKE.

James Hampton was born in the year 1829; and at the time of his birth his parents lodged at a public-house in Drury-lane, an ancient, squalid district of western London, which enjoys the reputation of having cradled the plague of the year 1665. Other districts have improved—have, indeed, had their tenements swept away, to make room for broad streets and palatial piles; but Drury-lane, like the Pyramids, seems to defy time itself; and century after century to retain its overcrowded courts and pestilential atmosphere. The elder Hampton was a house-painter; he and his wife were slaves of drink; so that with everything, against him, the early days of their son James were altogether unpromising. His play-ground was a spreading net-work of courts and alleys; his companions were the wandering Arabs and juvenile pariahs of the streets; his house was unworthy

of the name—a mere drinking-den—and his parents were never kind. A more rough and uncanny rearing than his, in the London of forty years ago, it would be difficult to imagine; and a being who did not come out of it a moral wreck, may well ascribe his preservation to the grace of God alone.

Yet James Hampton received an education of a kind, and, meagre as it was, his book-learning made him superior to his neighbours. For four years he attended the schools of New Church Court, in the Strand, though a main part of the discipline there received consisted in thrashings on account of playing truant, in company with dissolute companions. Instead of sitting down to their books, the youngsters would proceed to the water-side, to wallow in the mud in search of halfpence which would be tossed from the bridge by spectators, by way of sport. By such unlikely means, coppers to the amount of threepence or fourpence a-day were sometimes obtained; and the practice was continued until James Hampton reached his tenth or eleventh year, when life changes occurred, for which the young adventurer was quite unprepared.

At ten years of age he left school, and at the same time he was turned