

On reading it, Troilus was filled with joy, for he thought within himself, that the Emperor who kept his court in that magnificent palace, and admitted him to reside there, would abundantly provide for his comfort and delight; but while these thoughts passed through his mind, there came a Royal Messenger, with other heavenly officers, and said to those who were standing by, "Take away this inscription, and put another in its place, according to the command given me by the Monarch of the Universe." Then the first inscription being taken away, these words were put in its place— "This is the eternal and blessed abode of John, Archbishop of Alexandria, who bought it for thirty pounds of gold." On reading these words, Troilus awoke in much sorrow, and as soon as might be, seeking out the Patriarch, he told him of the dream, and confessing his grievous fault, became as noted for his charity and almsgiving, as he had been for his covetousness.

A beautiful instance of the Patriarch's charity and humility is given us in his reply to one of his domestics whom he had most liberally assisted, giving him the money with his own hands that it might not be known of others, and when the man expressed himself as confounded with so much goodness, the Patriarch gently reproved him in these words,— "Brother, I have not yet shed my blood for you, as JESUS CHRIST, my master, and our GOD, hath commanded us."

While on this subject, I must mention a story of a little child who has fallen asleep. His parents' house was very close by the church, and one day, when he had heard a sermon, exhorting to charity upon some particular occasion, which I have forgotten, he slipped out of the church, and taking from his money box the whole amount of his treasure, a sovereign lately given him, returned hastily to his place in Church, and begging two half pennies of his aunt, put them as

his donation into the plate. Some time after, being urged by his sisters to buy something, he said, "I cannot." "Why not?" was asked. He blushed as he found himself forced to give his reason. "Because I have no money." "No money!" they all exclaimed; "Why, what have you done with your sovereign?" "I have spent it," was the only answer they could get; but his mother being uneasy about the matter, induced him to tell her privately. "And why then, my dear boy, did you ask for the two half-pennies to put in the plate?" "Because, mamma, I thought I could hide my sovereign between them, and nobody would know what I gave."

GOD knew it, and the dear child who gladly gave his all, will, doubtless, rejoice in that day when hidden things are brought to light; and even as he did not his alms before men to be seen of them, his FATHER in heaven, Who seeth in secret, shall reward him openly.

Shall I tell one more story of almsgiving which cheered the saddened heart of one who saw it from the window? A man, a common labourer it might be, was passing by with his dinner tied up in a handkerchief. There was a famished-looking beggar in the way, and the poor labourer paused, and giving him his dinner, ran off at full speed, not staying for thanks. They, who know what it is to be dinnerless, after a day of hard manual labour, can best estimate the self-denying charity of such a deed, and among the many sorrowful sights which meet us in the streets of a crowded town, such instances, and they are not solitary ones, are gladdening as a ray of sunshine on a dark November day; and do not such deeds press home upon us the folly of measuring our capacity for almsgiving by the gold and silver we possess? Verily, the two mites of the widow, the Amen of a desolate heart, the guileless pity of a little child, may outweigh in the treasury of our GOD all that the rich of their abundance have cast in.—J. E. L.

THE MELANESIAN MISSION.



MELANESIA is the name given to the islands lying between New Zealand and New Guinea, in the south-west part of the Pacific Ocean. The number of its islands has never been made

out with certainty, but it is known to contain at least 200. They may be divided for our present purpose into the healthy and the unhealthy islands. Those which lie nearest to New Zealand have a climate which is sufficiently cool to per-