

of the *Dalai Lamas* in propagating their religion among their neighbours. he says, "their zeal has carried some of them beyond the *Baikal* to the unlettered tribes around *Irkutsk*, among whom they are acting as missionaries, building temples, &c—and thus preparing to set up their unintelligible mummeries in regions where it has hitherto been unknown. I am sure, my dear Sir, you cannot read this statement with indifference. Is it not enough to provoke the Society—the churches to jealousy?—Shall no soldiers of the cross be sent to take *that* field against these emissaries of *Dalai Lama*?—Some may think that we ought to wage the war there: but I could easily fill my sheet with arguments to show why we should not desert our present post (*Selingisk*.) On this side the lake we have enough to employ our hearts and hands were our numbers increased seven-fold.

I have another provoking circumstance to mention—the liberality of the heathen in support of superstition. During my late journey, some *Buriats* in my presence were conversing about the flocks and herds of the *Taisha Ijigjit*. They said he was not so very rich in sheep. I asked how that happened, since I had been told that his father, *Damba*, to whose property he succeeded, had upwards of ten thousand?—"Yes, his father at one time had ten thousand, but *seven thousand sheep* (*besides other property*) were disposed of for the building of the temple!"—Shall christians be outdone by heathens?—Shall greater sacrifices be made by individuals to uphold or propagate the mass of lies and nonsense of which *Dalai Lammais* consists, than Christians, who have it in their power, are willing to make for the furtherance of the gospel of Christ? Will not such magnificent heathen offerings as these

Perhaps this is out of place—the facts speak for themselves; but I am moved with I see such calls for missionaries, and the Society unable to meet them—such fields of exertion, and so few to occupy them, because the christian world does not furnish the means.

THE RIVER NILE.

FROM ENGLISH'S NARRATIVE.

THE river Nile has been represented, and I think with justice, as one of the wonders of the world. I do not consider it as meriting this appellation so much on account of its periodical and regular floods, in which respect it is resembled by several other rivers, as on account of another circumstance in which, so far as I know, it is without a parallel.

The Nile resembles the path of a good man in a wicked and worthless world: it runs through a desert—a dry, barren, hideous desert: on the parts of which adjoining its course, it has deposited the richest soil in the world, which it continually waters and enriches. This soil has been the source of subsistence to several powerful nations, who have established and overthrown mighty kingdoms, and have originated the arts, the religion, the learning, and the cultivation of the greatest part of the ancient world.* These nations, instructors and pupils, have perished: but the remains of their stupendous labours, the Pyramids and the Temples of Egypt, Nubia, and in the countries now visited for the first time at least for many ages, by minds capable of appreciating those of the people who erected them, are more than sufficient

* EGYPT, according to the most probable opinion, derived its sciences and institutions from Ethiopia. The sciences of the Egyptians were transferred to Greece by the travelling Philosophers of the latter country, the