

her the freedom. Nancy is now one of the Infant-School Teachers; and a better instance of the good effects of the possession of a Bible could not be found; for Nancy is, indeed, a blameless person. She has been married; and has had a son, to whom she gave a name taken from the Bible—the name of Joshua. She did not do that because she thought it was a high-sounding name; nor did she think to make him a captain, I am sure.

“It is but a few months since I went to visit a school, where I delivered a Lecture, which was supported by many Scripture proofs; and to engage and keep up their attention, I said, ‘I shall not read over the Scriptures; I will tell you the chapter and verse; and you must find and read the Scriptures, as I have occasion for them.’ They did so. But I observed a little boy, standing by a pillar in the chapel, who was quicker than all the rest in finding the texts;—and who was that little boy? Joshua, Nancy’s son. Thus it is, my Lord, that the benefits of the Bible Society are entailed from parents to children. The woman who had received and valued the Bible, had taught her child, so that he excelled among his fellows;—and I could tell many more instances of this. How often have I gone into a house, perhaps in a secluded spot, where the foot of a stranger was seldom found; and, on looking about to see what the inmates had to cheer and solace them in what appeared their dreary and solitary condition, I have seen a Bible, on the table, and the words “British and Foreign Bible Society” stamped thereon;—and as often as such an event has occurred, I have blessed God for such an Institution as this.”

Dr. Philip, from South Africa, referred in a very feeling manner to Mr. Frazer and his address, and after mentioning various facts illustrative of the happy influence of the Bible upon the Slaves and Hottentots of South Africa, he related the following circumstance:—

“I recollect going one day into a house, to visit a Chief. This Chief, a few years before, did not know that he had a soul—did not know the God that made him. He was then about ninety years of age. When we entered, he was sitting on the floor. He had been blind for years. When we told our names, instantly he burst into tears, grasped our hands, thanked God for the visit we paid him, and began to talk about his situation. Scraping up some of the dust with his hand, he said:—‘In a little time I must mingle with that dust; but in this flesh I

shall see God. I am blind; I see not by the light of day; but, by the light of faith, I see Jesus standing at the right hand of God, ready to receive my soul.’ I remembered, my Lord, at that moment that I had read, in the Life of Trajan, a soliloquy that he held with his own soul immediately before his death. ‘This head,’ says he, ‘shall no more wear a crown; these feet shall no more stand on the necks of princes; these hands no more sway a sceptre; this heart no longer be flattered with the praises of men; these ears no more be delighted with harmony, nor these eyes with fine sights; and my soul—oh, my soul! what is to become of thee!’ Now, contrast the feelings of this poor man with those of the Ruler of the Roman Empire, in their dying moments; and you find, that when you give a Bible to a poor savage, and it produces this effect on him, you do more for that man than if you could have given him the government of the world. This man had been taught by the Bible alone; a little child read the Bible to him every day; he heard the Bible every day, and was enlightened by the Bible;—and it was one of the Bibles of this Society that he had at that moment.”

The Rev. J. Williams, Missionary, gave the following statement:—

“When I had the honour of attending the Meeting last year, I was requested to give an address in the Lower Hall; where some Clergyman—I do not know his name—gave a most interesting account of a Missionary Meeting that Captain Lord Byron had attended in Bristol. At that meeting, his Lordship had described his visit to the South-Sea Islands; stating, that, in passing from the Sandwich-Islands’ group to South America, he had happened to light on an Island which he imagined was not before discovered; the boats were lowered, and the officers had specific orders to be cautious in their intercourse with the people, as, in all probability, they were savages. But soon after, a canoe appeared, with two good-looking natives in it. They came on board the ship; and presented a document from a Missionary, stating that they were Native Teachers, employed to impart the knowledge of Salvation to the inhabitants of that Island. His Lordship went on shore, and was conducted through a wood. When he had proceeded about two miles, a wide lawn opened out before him; and in the centre of this lawn stood a spacious Chapel, and some native cottages, appearing to peep at him through the luxuriant foliage of the bread-fruit and banana trees in which they were embowered. His Lordship was then conducted into a cottage, which he described as very clean and respectable; and on a table