

inquirer, but thinking a little, he replied, "Ah, massa, there can be no hell where Jesus Christ is."—*Watchman and Reflector.*

**AN L. L. D. DECLINED**—The Rev. Albert Barnes, in a letter to President Labaree of Middlbury College, respectfully declines the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws conferred on him by that Institution at its late commencement.

"I am deeply grateful (says Mr. Barnes,) for this expression of confidence and respect in conferring on me this high literary title, and beg that you will do me the favor to express to the corporation of the college, my sense of gratitude for the honor they have thus showed me. In the manner of the bestowment, and in the source whence it originated, there is everything to gratify my feelings.

"Several years ago, however, I felt it to be my duty to decline the honorary degree of D. D. conferred on me by Union College. That act I have never had occasion to regret, nor have I seen reasons to change the opinion which I then expressed, as to the propriety of such distinctions among ministers of the Gospel. The reasons which influenced me in regard to this degree are such as, it seems to me, apply equally to the one which you have been pleased to confer on me, and both consistency and propriety, therefore, require that I should now, as I did then, decline the honor."

**THE THIEF ON THE CROSS.**—It is a very wise and important observation by Matthew Henry, that there is only one instance recorded in sacred history of saving repentance in a dying hour, and this is mentioned that none need despair, and only this, that none need presume. But it is a very ancient tradition, supported by the testimony of learned critics, that this man was not converted while on the cross, but had been previously brought to the knowledge of Christ. He was called a thief or robber, because he was convicted as such, or more probably of insubordination, for crucifixion was not inflicted on thieves, but on those charged with rebellion. Christ was condemned, but he was innocent, and so might this 'malefactor' have been. If this view of the case is taken, there is not even the case of "the thief on the cross," to encourage the sinner in deferring repentance until to-morrow.

**THE JEWS**—The Boston *Congregationalist* says, that the American Society for meliorating the condition of the Jews, supports nine regular missionaries, and from four to seven colporteurs (all of them Christian Israelites), among the Jews, at an expense of 12,000 dollars per annum. It is stated as a fact, that this country is rapidly becoming the real centre of Christian influence over the descendants of Abraham, and there is an intense longing among those in Europe to come to America. It is also stated as a fact, that a greater number of Jews is accessible now to the missionaries of the American Society for Meliorating the Condition of the Jews, than to all the missionaries in Europe together. Is not this a clear indication of the will of Providence that the attention of our churches should be more generally and earnestly directed to the conversion of those in the midst of us?