

into the world. It is affirmed, too, of a celebrated tragedian, that he never allowed his children to see the inside of a theatre. There is meaning in such opinions, coming from such men.—*Rev. Dr. Magie.*

### PURITY OF INTENTION.

That we should seek the glory of God in every action we do, is expressed by St. Paul:—"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." When we observe this rule, every action becomes religious, and every meal an act of worship. With purity of intention, the most common act of life is sanctified; but without it, even our devotions are imperfect and vicious; for he that prays out of custom, or gives alms for praise, or fasts to be accounted religious, is but a Pharisee in his devotion or in his alms, and a hypocrite in his fast. If a man visit his sick friend, and watches at his pillow for charity's sake, and because of his old affection, we admire it; but if he does it in hope of a legacy, he is a vulture, and only watches for the carcase. The same things are honest and dishonest; the manner of doing them, and the design, make the difference.

### RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

#### ITALY.

A curious incident occurred last month at Rome, which shows that the Papal Government does not feel itself in circumstances to act as rigorously as it would have done a couple of years ago towards any one circulating heretical books. A pious clergyman of the Church of England, long a missionary in the West Indies, by name Rev. Mr. W. Blood, was mercifully preserved from shipwreck, when, about ten years ago, the steamship "Amazon" was burned at sea, and most of his fellow-passengers perished. Such an event most naturally produced a deep impression on his mind; he prepared and preached at Southampton, on the Sabbath after his arrival, a sermon having reference to it, and applying the danger he had so lately escaped spiritually to unconverted sinners. It was afterwards printed, and gratuitously circulated by its author, both in English and French. During this late winter he resided in Nice, and had his little tract printed in Italian. He never circulates the Bible or other books, but the circulation of his "Loss of the Amazon" is considered by him "preaching Christ;" and if it appears to others a monomania, he is to be honoured, at least, for the untiring zeal he displays. Among other places he visited Rome, and, by means which it would be imprudent to specify, got 500 copies of his tract introduced into that city. The work of distribution was begun by him at once, and planting the tracts with priests or monks is his highest aim. He had not been long employed ere his doings

were reported to Monsignore Matteucci, the head of the Police, and Mr. Blood had an official despatch summoning him to that worthy's presence: He was most politely received and treated, but told that he must give up his tracts and leave Rome immediately. It was promised him that the former should be restored to him at Civita Vecchia when he left, and he stipulated that he should have a day or two to see Rome ere the latter injunction was enforced. He was called a second time, and told that, instead of giving back his books, they would give him an equivalent in money, with which he might buy a new supply when he got to Naples; and that as he had paid *anticipatamente* for his lodgings, they would refund the price to him, but that he must leave Rome immediately. He protested he did not want their money, but that they should keep their promise, and give him up his books at the frontier; but at last he was obliged to accept the money and depart. News of this came to Mr. Consul Severn's ears, who, concluding it would be an Inquisition case, telegraphed at once to Earl Russell for instructions, and he was much surprised, when he waited on Monsignore Matteucci, to be told by him that the matter was amicably settled! Mr. Blood has since been holding sensation meetings at Naples and Florence, with posters announcing that the tracts "have been provided at the expense of the papal Government, and will be distributed gratis to the assembly." It is well for him that his visit to Rome was in 1862, when the agitation about the temporal power occupies such attention, otherwise he would have met with very different treatment.—*News of the Churches.*

THE HERVEY ISLANDS are a group in the North Pacific, which have been greatly blessed by the labours of missionaries, and the whole Bible, translated into their tongue, has been just printed in England and sent to them. The joy of the natives was very great when they first arrived. As they brought the cases from the sea-side to the mission-houses, they sang in their own language.

"The word is come, the volume complete;  
Let us learn the good word, our joy is great."

At a public meeting held on the occasion, one of the natives arose and said: "My brethren and sisters, this is my resolution—the *devil* shall never cover my Bible; the moths shall never eat it; the mildew shall never rot it; my light and my joy."

SYRIA.—There is a severe persecution at several points. The political prospect is disquieting. But a spiritual work is in progress. A physician, about fifty years of age; formerly of the Papal Greek Church, has been admitted to the Beirut Church. Mr. Ford reports a growing interest in spiritual things, and the Profession of Protestantism by many individuals in the field of the Sidon station.

POLYNESIA.—Dr Turner, from Samoa, reports that in seven years 7,000 copies of the Old Testament, and 25,000 of the New, have been sold in the Samoan islands at remunerating prices.