

Dictation was one of the methods to which I had recourse, but they wrote so miserably and slowly, that this consumed a great portion of valuable time. Observing that they were ignorant of the signification of many words of constant use and recurrence, I made a selection, and set them to write down, in little copy-books, words which were in most frequent use; but I was obliged to rack my brain for new and brief definitions which they could understand, and to make them transcribe these. Arithmetic was another branch of knowledge which required many a weary hour. Geography was considered a matter of recreation after dinner; and they pored over the maps with a feeling of delight and amusement, which was quite new to them. I also gave them some notions of the sphere, and of the form and motion of the earth, of the seasons and the climates, and of the heavenly bodies. Everything of this sort was perfectly novel to them; and even the first elementary books were as unintelligible as the most abstruse treatise on mathematics. I was consequently forced to use the simplest and plainest modes of demonstration; but these amused and instructed them at the same time.—Proceeding from one step to another, I pointed out the situation of different countries on the chart of the world, and in separate maps, and took pains to give some slight idea, as we went on, of the characteristics, religion, customs, and history of each nation. These details fixed topics of moment in their recollection. Up to this time I had been astonished by the little interest they took, christian-minded as they were, in the subject of Christian missions; but, when they began to have some idea of Geography, I discovered that their former ignorance of this science, and of the very existence of many foreign nations in distant quarters of the globe, was the cause of such indifference. For,

as soon as they began to learn who the people are who require to have the Gospel preached to them, and in what part of the globe they dwell, they felt the same concern for the circulation of the Gospel that other Christians entertained. These new acquirements, in fact, enlarged their spirit, made new creatures of them, and seemed to triple their very existence. Geometry and music closed the course."

The unremitting labours of Neff destroyed his health; and he was at length obliged to quit the inclement district in which he had accomplished so much good. He retired to Geneva, whence, after a life of toil and labour in the best of causes, and a ministry very successful in winning souls to Christ, he ascended to the mansions of eternal repose.

It was the anxiety of this truly evangelical Minister, to build up the Christian on a foundation where self-dependence, vain-glory, and imaginary merit were to have no place whatever; and yet every act of his ministry proved that he set a just value on knowledge and attainments. It was his labour of love to show, that whenever any addition is made to our stock of knowledge, we not only gain something in the way of enjoyment, but are laying up a store for the improvement of our moral and religious feelings, and of our general habits of industry. The spiritual advancement of his flock was the great end and object of all his toils; but no man ever took a warmer interest in the temporal comforts of those about him; and this he evinced by instructing them in the management of their fields and gardens, in the construction of their cottages, and in employing all his own acquirements in philosophy and science for the amelioration of their condition. He so condescended to things of low estate as to become a teacher of the alphabet, not only to ignorant infancy, but to