

A SINGLE SENTENCE.

There died in Edinburgh a venerable Baptist pastor, Mr. James Alexander Haldane, in his eighty-fourth year. In his early life he commanded the man-of-war, Melville Castle. While engaged in an action one day, the decks of his ship were cleared by the broad-sides of the enemy. Captain Haldane ordered a fresh set of hands to be "piped up," to take the place of the slain. The men, on seeing the mangled bodies of their comrades scattered over the deck, instinctively drew back; at which their commander poured forth a volley of oaths, and wished them all in hell. One of the seamen who had been religiously educated, shortly afterwards said to the Captain, in a respectful and serious manner, "If God had heard your prayer just now, where should we have been?" The engagement terminated; but a greater victory had been achieved *over* Captain Haldane than *by* him. The old sailor's words were winged by Him who never smites in vain; and from that day the gallant and reckless officer became a changed man. He lived to preach the gospel for fifty-four years. Among the early fruits of his ministry was the conversion of his brother Robert, well known as an able, learned, and pious commentator. Robert went to Geneva, and during a sojourn there of several months (about 1814) he laboured with unwearied assiduity to reclaim the pastors and theological students, whom he met with, from their rationalistic errors, to indoctrinate them in the evangelical faith, and to lead them to seek a personal interest in the Saviour. The blessing of God was with him. A considerable number of young men became zealously pious; and among those in whose conversion he had a main agency were Frederick Monod, now one of the pillars of the Evangelical Church, in France; Felix Neff, the devoted young pastor of the High Alps, whose memory is held sacred in both hemispheres; and Merle D'Augbigne, the eminent historian of the Reformation. To pronounce these names is to show how impossible it must be for any created mind to gather up the results of that single conversion on board the Melville Castle. And that conversion was brought about through a *single sentence* addressed by a sailor to his commander, firmly but courteously reproving him for his profanity!

This case is a strong one. But is it not instructive? Does it not shame our remissness in the great duty of bringing men to Christ? Does it not hold out the amplest encouragement to fidelity and zeal in