

FRIENDLY GREETINGS.

bestowed. Here we have nothing but the simple fact before us, that it was at the first meeting of the two, and before any converse whatever took place between them, that the change of name was announced; with what effect on Peter we are left to guess,—his very silence, a silence rather strange to him, the only thing to tell us how deep was the impression made by this first interview with Christ.

Rev. Dr. Hanna.

GOOD EVIDENCE.

AN African prince, named Hainbanna, came to London, many years ago, from Sierra Leone. A great deal of pains was taken to prove to him the Divine inspiration of the Bible. When he was at length convinced he was asked what argument had produced the strongest impression on his mind. He replied, "When I saw all good men reverence the Bible, and call it the Word of God, and all wicked men despise it, I understood that it must be in reality that which it is to the good—the Word of God."

Here is another fact which occurred some years ago in one of the South Sea Islands. At one of the missionary stations some sailors heard the Gospel proclaimed by some of the natives. Upon this a discussion arose among them whether these savages did but repeat mechanically the lessons which had been taught them. To decide the question they appealed to one of the missionaries, who invited the strangers to return in the afternoon.

Twelve or fifteen natives were then assembled, and the missionary only said to them, "These gentlemen wish to ask you some questions."

The sailors then asked them, "Do you believe that the Bible is the Word of God?"

"Certainly we believe it," replied one, in the name of all.

"But why do you believe it? Can you give any good reasons for believing that the Bible is the Word of God?"

"Yes," replied the same speaker. "You see how the power of the Bible has completely overturned the customs by which we have been enslaved. Do you think that human arguments could have overthrown the idolatry which weighed us down? No, surely. The Bible which has accomplished such a work cannot be a merely human book."

"I believe the Bible is the Word of God," said another of the native converts, "because of the excellence of the religion which it teaches. We had a religion, but how miserable a thing it was compared with the salvation which is declared in the Bible! There we learn that we are sinners; that God has given His Son Jesus Christ to die in our stead, and that we are saved by this work of love. How can this scheme of grace come from any other source than the wisdom of God? And the same doctrine which saves us leads us also to a life of holiness."

"For my part," said a third, borrowing an illustration from his own simple ideas, "when I look at myself I find my body provided with admirable springs. If I wish to take hold of anything, I have

springs in my hands to execute my will; if a thought arises which I wish to express, I have springs which move my lips and tongue; if I desire to walk, I have in my feet springs which obey me. I acknowledge that it is God who has so wonderfully arranged my body. How, then, should I not acknowledge that it is He also who has made the Bible, since He has so well adapted it to the wants of my soul? Yes, the Bible is the Word of God, as my body is the work of God."

Let us thoughtfully consider the answers of these humble Christians, who did not bewilder themselves striving about words, and without entering upon barren controversies let us try to comprehend what the Book which we regard as Divinely inspired ought to be to ourselves.

THE BIBLE.

Verses and Prayer inserted in the Bibles in the time of Queen Elizabeth.

HERE is the spring where waters flow,
To quench our heate of sinne:
Here is the Tree where trueth doeth grow,
To leade our liues therein.

Here is the Iudge that stints the strife,
When men's deuises faile:
Here is the Bread that feedes the life,
That death cannot assaile.

The Tidings of Saluation deare
Come to our cares from hence:
The Fortresse of our Faith is here,
And Shield of our defence.

Then be not like the hogge that hath
A Pearle at his desire,
And takes more pleasure of the trough
And wallowing in the mire.

Reade not this Booke in any case,
But with a single eye:
Reade not but first desire God's grace,
To vnderstand thereby.

Pray still in faith with this respect,
To fructifie therein,
That knowledge may bring this effect,
To mortifie thy sinne.

Then happie thou in all thy life,
What so to thee befallles:
Yea, doubly happy shalt thou bee,
When God by death thee calles.

PRAYER.

O Gracious God and most mercifull Father, which hast vouchsafed vs the rich and precious Iewel of Thy Holy Word, assist vs with Thy Spirit, that it may be written in our hearts to our euerlasting comfort, to reforme vs, to renew vs according to Thine owne Image, to build vs vp, and edifie vs into the perfect building of Thy Christ, sanctifying and increasing in vs all heavenly vertues. Graunt this, O heauenly Father, for Iesus Christes sake. Amen.