

tion to learn the A, B, C; and when he got the sound of two or three letters, he would try to put them together and make a word of it, so that he might be able to read. At last he got discouraged and said, "I must give up—I shall never be able to read the Word of God." He was too old, it was too late. The captain said, this affected him to tears—the thought of his own privileges, the neglect of the Bible, when he had been so long able to read it, and the distress of the poor old man, that he should "never be able to read the Word of God"—such reflections as these brought him to the determination that he would neglect the Bible no longer; and he hoped that, by the help of the Holy Spirit, he had not studied it in vain.

The accounts from these islands continue to be highly interesting and encouraging. The "General Letter from the Mission" is a very important document: we give the following extract, which we are sure will be read with pleasure:

"The past year has been one of uncommon interest through all the Sandwich Islands. Though the enemy of souls, with his commissioned agents, has opposed the progress of truth and righteousness, yet the Spirit of the Lord has lifted up a standard against him. There has probably been no period, since the commencement of the mission, when the progress of truth has been so rapid, and the victories of the cross so numerous and glorious, as during the year that is past. At every station there has been a revival of religion. A great multitude have professedly turned to the Lord. The work of the Lord has been great and marvellous among us. The proud and rebellious have been humbled, and some of the most hardened and profligate have been brought to bow to the sceptre of the Prince of Peace. The Lord has been with us in truth. The exhibitions of his power and glory in the conversion of souls have been such as to warm, cheer, and strengthen our hearts. It is a fact worthy of remark perhaps, that while the communications from the Board and others, have not been of a nature calculated to encourage our hearts or further the object of our mission, but rather of a kind to damp our ardour and darken our prospects, and to throw down the walls of our sacred institutions, which we with much care and labour have for many years been endeavouring to build, the communications and assistance from on high have tended to raise our thoughts above the adverse circumstances into which we were thrown by them. We have learned that, "It is better

in men.' It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in churches even, though professedly belonging to him, and devoted to his service and glory.

You remember there was light in the land of Goshen, though darkness in all the land of Egypt beside; and while the dark cloud, which has been hanging over the American churches, and which still hangs over them, and which, on their side of it, exhibit nothing but threatening and alarm; on this side there have been no appearances but those of light and tokens of good. The darkness which has poured in upon us from abroad has not put out or diminished the light which shines around us. 'The Lord is our light and shield, and he is become our salvation; in him will we trust.' 'The Lord hath done great things for us whereof we are glad,' and praised be his name. 'Not unto us, not unto us, but to thy name give glory for thy mercy and truth's sake.'

The revivals with which we have been blessed, and some of which are now in progress, have embraced all ages, from the advanced in years to children. There are many children and youth among those who, we hope, have been born of the Spirit. In former revivals it was not so. But few of the children and the young were affected by them. Our church hitherto have consisted mostly of the aged and middle aged.

The means which have been used by us in these revivals are those which God has appointed for the salvation of souls—the preaching of the gospel, conversing with the people in small companies, and with individuals, and visiting from house to house, and the prayers of the church. Protracted meetings have also been held at all our stations during the year, and at some of the stations a number have been held at different times during this period. At most of our out-stations, also, protracted meetings have been held. These meetings have been greatly blessed, and in most instances have been accompanied by revivals of religion. The Holy Spirit was evidently present to raise the fallen, to strengthen the weak, to open the eyes of the spiritually blind, and to quicken the dead in sin. Many we trust have yielded to his gracious influences, and have forsaken the service of Satan, and commenced the service of the Lord.

About five thousand have been received to the churches since our last general meeting [June, 1837]; and there are about two thousand and four hundred who now stand propounded for admission; and there are many more who exhibit some evidence of having given their hearts to the Saviour. This large increase is the result of these gracious visitations from on high. The standard of piety in our churches has been raised, and their purity promoted;