

## AN AFRICAN'S MEDICINE.

An East African chief made application with much gravity and earnestness to a recent traveller for two medicines—one to preserve him from thunder and lightning, and one to preserve him from death. The poor savage, for such he was, had in his breast a human heart which was conscious of fears and wants that he could not define. The terrors of the thunder-storm made even his strong nerves tremble. The darkness of death appalled him, the traveller says, with “unspeakable horror.” For medicines which should deliver him from these evils he was prepared to part with all he had that he might purchase them.

The statement may seem a bold one, but it is true, that the gospel of Jesus Christ supplies the medicines which the poor savage longed to possess. Admitted that it does not give us armour that shall be proof against lightning, or any charm that shall save us from what are called accidents, yet it reveals to us a Providence without whose permission one hair of our head shall not fall to the ground, and gives the believer an interest in its guardianship. We cannot presume that the sun shall never smite us by day, nor the moon by night; but we know that all things work together for good to them that love God; and consequently if the sun or the lightning should smite us it will not be in judgment. That which in its outward aspect is a calamity is in its ultimate issues, to the Christian, “a good;” for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

What peace and quiet such a view of Divine Providence gives to every one who perceives it, and who, through Christ, can call God his Father and Friend! It is a true medicine to his heart, a balm of consolation, a fountain of strength.

As to death, the gospel does not reverse the ancient sentence, “Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.” It leaves its truest disciples still mortal. But then it lifts the veil which covers death. It reveals life and incorruption beyond the grave. And it informs us how we, guilty sinners, may obtain peace with our offended Maker, so that we may die in the assured hope of heaven, and not under a trembling fear of hell.

More than this: there is a distinct and blessed truth in the words of Jesus Christ, who said not only, “He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live,” but also, “Whoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.” The Christian dies and yet he does not die. Death is strictly no more death to him. In the separation of his soul from the body there is no more curse. When he passes out of this world into another, he does not cease to be. The stream of his life is not broken by his dying. Its channel is no longer visible to us, but the stream itself is only enlarged and purified. The Christian may be unconscious for many hours before dying; but there is no unconsciousness after. From the body the soul goes into life, higher, holier, happier than that which it enjoyed in the body. And Christ’s words are literally fulfilled—“Whoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.”

Blessed gospel! Tell its tidings of mercy to poor bleeding, down trodden Africa. Carry its consolations into every chamber of death and sorrow.

## SIN DISCOVERED,

One night, some years ago, a person in the city of Edinburgh awoke to find that his house had been plundered. The alarm was raised; nor was it long ere the officers of justice found a clue. The thief, wounding his hand as he escaped by the window, had left a red witness behind him. The watchman flashed his lantern upon the spot. Drop by drop, the blood stained the pavement. They tracked it on, and on, and ever on, till their silent guide conducted them along an open passage, and up a flight of steps, stopping at the door of a house. They broke in, and there they found the bleeding hand, the booty, and the pale ghastly criminal. Now a shower of rain would have washed away the stain!—a fall of snow would have concealed it; the feet of some midnight traveller would have effaced it; but no;—the crime was one of peculiar atrocity, and there God kept the damning spot. And unless they be forgiven, covered by the righteousness, washed away in the blood of Jesus, so shall your sins find you out.—[Dr. Guthrie.]