

temples from decay and its sacred society from intrusion ; but we have spoken the name of CHRIST with trembling lips, and been afraid to tell those undeserving objects of our scrupulosity how supremely we valued His favor—how strong our trust was in His power and love. As a Government, we seemed to smile upon a profligate idolatry, and in whispers to wish it success, while we said to the devoted Missionary of Christ, You must stand in the shade and keep your heavenly message unuttered, lest the ear of the heathen should take offence. We strove faithfully to improve their temporal condition by abolishing the worst of their sanguinary ceremonies, by spending vast sums for the commercial improvement of their country, and for the instruction of their minds in an unsanctified learning ; but the richest gem of all our treasures, the Pearl of great price, we would not give them,—not because we were unable to afford it, for that is a gift we can bestow and yet find ourselves the richer, but because we thought the conscience of India might be wounded, and the power which ruled at Calcutta thereby subjected to inconvenience, and perhaps to danger. But what abject fear was this ! What a dishonorable compromise of a duty that is in all cases uncompromising ! I believe the people of England did not know it. That is not an excuse, but it is the only explanation that can meet my own astonishment. I did not know that penalties were attached to the profession of Christianity in India, though I ought to have known it. We don't deserve dominion if we don't concern and acquaint ourselves with the policy that upholds it. The facts were clear and undisguised,—they ought then to have been notorious. It is the most shameful passage in our modern history. It was doing as a government what we never could have done as individuals. It was an unforced retreat before an enemy, and from a sacred field. It was furling our best banner before a foe that reviled it. When we discountenanced Gospel Mis-