

nothing as to its laws and capabilities. To educate the mind and change the moral character and life of the heathen is to place them into closer relations with God and men.

The short way to the true end of Christian missions is to reach and bring into the kingdom of God the women of those lands. Missionaries have learned that men can not be converted in large numbers till the women are won over to the side of Christianity. The women more than men conserve the superstition of heathen lands; and "what can man do when the woman of the house is against him?" The motherhood and wifehood of heathen lands must be controlled by the truth, and then the home and the state will be brought over to the care of Christ.

THE GOSPEL IN SAMOA.

THE Samoan Islands lie 3,000 miles east of Australia. *Massacre Bay* preserves the repute of the islands as they were known to the early explorers: the people savage and cruel beyond most. The first missionaries arrived in 1830. The Bible has been translated, and an octavo reference copy is a common volume. Bibles and other books have always been paid for: and the sales of the first edition (10,000) of the Scriptures brought in £3,100, the amount of the Bible Society's outlay. A revised edition of 10,000 has also been exhausted. Fifty years ago the people did not know what use to make of money. Now the ships in the islands do a business of nearly £100,000 a year. The day and Sunday-schools are attended by 8,000 children; there are not twenty houses without a copy of the Word of God, and daily family prayer; and in two hundred of the villages the pastor is entirely supported by the people. In the missionary seminary, the students labor an hour or two each day, and also every Wednesday. The result of the steady labor is that the institution possesses an estate worth £10,000. There are 80 students, many of whom bring their wives with them, and these are taught in various matters of the house. There have been 1,716 in all in the college.

John Williams was murdered in the island of Erromanga. The present missionary, the Rev. H. Robertson, has just returned to it: and for welcome, mothers carried their children 20 miles; he received a present of a ton and a half of yams and 12 hogs. There were 37 baptisms, and over 600 natives attended a service held by the large rock where Williams' dead body was laid.

HOW MUCH?

EVERY one has so much capital, and for that he is responsible. Small capital wisely directed leads to excellent results, while large capital misdirected brings misfortune. The question as to how much time, thought, and money we should invest in the cause of Christ is still being discussed, as though God had not settled the matter long ago.

If we take the simple statement, "as the Lord hath prospered" men, and get its meaning, there will be no unwise use of capital.

Personal religion is a business, a great business, and must be conducted accorded to the laws governing

such a business. There is such a thing as bankruptcy in this life as well as in the life to come. There are net profits or dividends resulting from this business that will be in proportion to the amount invested. How much capital has our reader invested in the kingdom of God? *How much?*

WHY CARRY THE HEATHEN THE GOSPEL?

PROFESSOR MAX MÜLLER, addressing the British and Foreign Bible Society, said this year: "I may claim that in the discharge of my duties for forty years (as Professor of Sanskrit in the University of Oxford) I have devoted as much time as any man living to the study of the sacred books of the East. And I venture to tell this meeting what I have found to be the one key-note—the one diapason, so to speak—of all these so-called sacred books—whether it be the Veda of the Brahmins, the Puranas of Siva and Vishnu, the Koran of the Mohammedans, the Zendavesta of the Parsees, the Tripitika of the Buddhists—the one diapason, the one refrain that you will find through all, is salvation by works. They all say that salvation must be purchased, must be bought with a price, and that the sole price, the sole purchase-money, must be our own works and deservings. Our own Holy Bible, our sacred book of the East, is from beginning to end a protest against this doctrine. Good works are, indeed, enjoined upon us in that sacred book of the East far more strongly than in any other sacred book of the East, but they are only the outcome of a grateful heart—they are only a thank-offering, the fruits of our faith. They are never the ransom-money of the true disciples of Christ. Let us not shut our eyes to what is excellent and true, and of good report in these sacred books, but let us teach Hindoos, Buddhists, Mohammedans, that there is only one sacred Book of the East that can be their mainstay in that awful hour when they pass all alone into the unseen world. It is the sacred Book which contains that faithful saying worthy to be received of all men, women and children, and not merely of us Christians, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."—*Advocate of Missions.*

THE LOTUS.

KING among the flowers of Japan, towers the lotus. It is a wonderful creation of almost unearthly loveliness. We saw it first, growing in a moat of running water belonging to the castle of a princely family. The bud-stalks slowly rise from the long roots in the voye, unfolding their tips into glorious concave shields of green, two feet in diameter, and corded like the veins of a gladiator,—which hold on their bosses transparent drops of dew. Then emerge the closed bolls, like a clasped hand, that trembles like troubled waters, giving no sign of the mighty flower hidden within their bosom.

When the sunshine deepens into July heats, the boll shyly, as if afraid, unfolds day by day, till the splendor of its full bloom is revealed. Massive shield and glorious flower make a picture in which the imaginative Japanese finds his ideal and emblem of eternal calm. The calyx of the lotus is a triangle whose base