

*Mary.*—O, mamma, do tell us something about the children. What are they like ?

*Mamma.*—Many of them are good children, and love the Lord Jesus Christ. The children, generally, are intelligent little creatures, and are very fond of learning to read and write.—They are often apprenticed as servants to the English people living in Sierra-Leone. A lady, who had a little boy and girl as servants, says, that the boy was so fond of writing, that he did not do his work properly ; and the only way she had of getting it done was to say to him, “ Now I shall not give you any more pens and paper till you have done your work well.”

The little girl had asked her mistress one day, after she had been reading the Bible, if she thought that, had Adam *not* eaten the forbidden fruit when it was offered to him by Eve, he would have been allowed to remain in Paradise. This little girl was one day very naughty, and her mistress told her to stand in the corner, and not to come out till she was good. She stood in the corner for about eight minutes, and then went to her mistress, and asked her pardon in a mild tone of voice. Her mistress spoke a few serious words to her, and she answered, “ When I first been wish to leff corner, and come ask pardon, de devil always say to me, ‘ No, don’t go ;’ but de good Spirit say ‘ Go.’ And I listen to de good Spirit, and come ; and so you been forgive me, ma’am.”

*Emma.*—Thank you, mamma. We hope the next stories you tell us will be about New-Zealand.

## LETTERS FROM A RETURNED MISSIONARY

### NO. I.

MY DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS,—You have often heard and read of a country called Africa ; and perhaps some of the readers of this little periodical may some

day see that country. The writer has been to the southern part of that vast continent to preach the Gospel to the Heathen who are ignorant of God, and of His Son Jesus Christ, the Saviour of lost sinners. Probably, therefore, you would like to learn something from him concerning the land where he has laboured. Well, then, he will tell you a little, hoping that what he writes will interest and profit you.

South Africa is a very great distance from England, about seven thousand miles across the wide ocean, and it requires a long time to get there. The voyage is performed now much quicker than it was a number of years ago, because navigation is better understood, and steam-ships are in common use.—A steamer will run to the Cape of Good Hope in about five or six weeks ; but a sailing vessel, which depends upon the wind for motion, is generally about ten or twelve weeks in going, and that is a very long time to be upon the broad waters, far distant from the sight of land. And on reaching Africa you find it a very different country to this. The climate is intensely hot.—Frost is seldom known there, and snow is never seen except upon the distant and lofty mountains, and there on.y occasionally. The scenery is very beautiful ; especially after copious and refreshing showers of rain have descended. There you would find many rich and pretty flowers, such as are seen here only in well-cultivated gardens, growing wild ; and perhaps if you were there you would like to wander among the bushes, plucking the flowers. In Africa there are many wild beasts,—as the elephant, tiger, lion, and wolf. A Missionary’s wife once told me that the tigers were so numerous where she lived in the interior of the country, that they came at nights and scratched with their paws at the windows of the Mission-house ; and often devoured a sheep