

what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time and then vanisheth away."—*N. Y. Evangelist.*

### Are they Well Enough Off?

Sometimes people say, "What is the use of going to the expense of sending the gospel to the heathen? The heathen are well enough off as they are." Let us see if they are well enough off as they are. We will take one of the South Sea islands for example. The Tahitians worshipped more than a hundred idols. As they fancied their gods were as cruel and covetous as themselves, they tried to please them by keeping live hogs and chickens for them. They called these animals sacred, and the priests pretended to keep them for the gods. "Once a traveller wanted to buy some sacred fowls, as there were no others to be had. The priest at first did not like to sell them, but when he saw what nice looking-glasses and knives he could get for them, he went to the idol and said, 'O my god, here are some beautiful things, knives, scissors, looking-glasses; perhaps I may sell some of the fowl belonging to us two for them; they will be good property for us two.' He then waited a few minutes, and pretended to be listening; then he said the god was willing, and let the traveller have them. They never thought their gods would be angry with sin, but fancied they could be coaxed and made to like those who gave them presents. When they prayed, they used to kneel on one knee and repeat their prayers in a sort of singing tone, saying something of this kind: 'See, I have brought you pigs and fruit; so be kind to me and do not let me be drowned, and let me conquer my enemies.' How different is our God from their gods. He cannot bear sin, and he cares for nothing we can give him. He never could have listened to our prayers, if Jesus had not suffered for our sins. The apostle John says 'If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is

the propitiation,' or sacrifice, 'for our sins.'

"Death was very terrible to those heathens, for they had no bright hopes beyond the grave. They thought at death their spirits went to their cruel gods, who ate them three times over, and afterwards they went into the body of a bird or beast, or man, and lived upon the earth again. Sometimes the poor creatures in dying have looked towards the end of the mat on which they lay, and cried out, 'Oh, there are the spirits waiting for my spirit; guard my spirit when it leaves the body: O keep it from them.' How different were these cries from those of some dying Christian children, who have exclaimed with sweet smiles, 'I see the angels coming to take me. O Lord Jesus, I come, I come!'"

Are the heathen well enough off as they are? If we love our Saviour and prize his gracious gospel of mercy and peace, shall we not be *in earnest* to bring others to a knowledge of him?—*Child's Paper.*

### The Gospel in India.

In India the onward march of Christianity is creating great alarm among the advocates of *Hindooism*, and leading them to make violent efforts to check its progress, and to prop up the idolatrous institutions of the country, which are daily losing their influence over the minds of the people. A number of educated Hindoos have commenced a monthly periodical, containing extracts from infidel writers, intended as an antidote to the teaching of missionaries. They preface their publication with admissions which bear a most satisfactory testimony regarding the results of missionary operations among their countrymen. They say:—

"The vigorous exertions of the preachers of the gospel have tended to spread widely the knowledge of the Christian religion among the natives of India; there can hardly be found an educated Hindoo that knows not some-