

mentages. In and after our Saviour's time, it was not practised at all; and the only dance mentioned in the New Testament history is the one which cost the saintly head of John the Baptist."

There was a long pause. Isabel had received light, and her clear mind opened to its beams.

Miss Dunbar was a pious lady, but her religion never obtruded its sentiments upon others, and it was only on her being urgently entreated by her young friend to accompany her to a ball that she was led into the above exposition.

Isabel Temple, placed by circumstances in a fashionable circle, shared its pleasures, honestly believing them to be harmless.—Those arguing in their favour, maintained their innocence on the ground that they were not infractions of the moral law—on the contrary, they were sanctioned by Scripture. Her religious advantages were but few, her acquaintance with the Bible superficial; and she now, for the first time, had the privilege of conversing with one who had read the Sacred Book with a studious mind and a prayerful heart.

Isabel had a taste for knowledge, and prided herself somewhat upon her attainments; but here was a branch of learning upon which she had never entered, and of the vast literary store which the Bible contained, she was entirely ignorant. Yet she dared to quote from the grand old Book, to call it to her aid in corroboration of her crude arguments. Oh, how simple she felt at that moment. Isabel Temple, the brilliant, suddenly discovered she knew nothing.

That day she commenced the study of the Scriptures, with the earnest desire to know for herself the Divine mind upon every point connected with her immortal interests. And, Oh! what a mine she opened! what treasures she found! what beauty, what wealth, what sweetness, what sublimity surrounded the simple truth!—How the fair student's mind enlarged, her judgment strengthened, her tastes and views became rarified and exalted, her character elevated! In the school of wisdom she sounded the depths of theological lore; without any other teacher than the inspired Word, she discovered the gracious plan of redemption, bowed her soul to its renovating influence, and rapidly "grew in grace,

and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Just three months from the day when the conversation with which we opened took place, Miss Dunbar received an invitation to be present at the public baptism of Isabel; and when they met, the latter clasped the neck of her friend with a loving kiss, joyfully exclaiming:—

"Oh! I am glad I ever knew you. My heart is bounding with happiness. Oh! I now know the meaning of the sentence, 'a time to dance.'"—Chr. Intelligencer.

A CRUSHING RETORT.

Some white men from a Christian land engaged natives in New Zealand to go with them on a journey, to carry their luggage. The Sabbath overtook them on the road. The men wished to go on, but the natives, who had been under the pious instruction of missionaries, said:—"No, no, it is the Sabbath; we must rest." The travellers, however, went on, and left their attendants behind, who in good time arrived safely with the goods; but the men refused to pay them, because they would not travel on the Sabbath.

"What are we to do with the law of God?" asked the natives.

"What have we to do with the law of God? What is that to us?" cried the men angrily.

"You have much to do with that law," answered one of the natives firmly. "Were it not for the law of God, we should have robbed you, taken all you had, and set you adrift; perhaps we might have murdered you. You have that much to do with the law of God."

EXPEDIENCY.

Expediency! expediency! with how many is that the regulating, governing principle of their lives!—not what is *right*—but what is *prudent*. Such are they who sail with wind and tide—in politics, in religion, in commerce, in daily society and friendship. They will take the winning side. They are what the world call *far-seeing men*. They look before them. They make a careful calculation of consequences; and are not very scrupulous as to principle.—Macduff.