

ish son is the heaviness of his mother." It is a duty to exercise Christian hospitality, and to afford shelter and help to the unfortunate and the erring; but it is a primary duty to watch over the inmates of our own home, and guard them from the contaminating influence of wickedness and deceit.

Let the heads of Christian families take up the words of the Psalmist and say, "He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house; he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight." C. P.

## BARBARISM IN CENTRAL AFRICA.

BY THE REV. W. GRIFFITH, OF UGHA.

Cameron, in his work "Across Africa" (vol. ii., p. 110), has referred to some of the barbarous customs practised by the Warua tribe.

Many of the Baluva people (for that is their correct name) from time to time, and from various parts, visited the Mission, I have had many opportunities of making myself acquainted with their beliefs and customs. I have verified and enlarged the information obtained by Commander Cameron, and have endeavoured to convince some of those people of the wickedness of such practices.

Throughout the country of Urua there are a large number of lakes, big and small and other bodies of running and stagnant water; and all these lakes and bodies of water are supposed to be the abode of powerful spirits. To these invisible beings is attributed all evils, sicknesses, and misfortunes, and also everything good and fortunate.

Attributing such might to these spirits, the people endeavour to pacify them through sacrifices, and the victims of these sacrifices are human beings. In this way some thousands of people are sacrificed every year throughout the vast kingdom of Urua. If the spirit is supposed to be dissatisfied with his living relatives, the diviner is called, and upon his advice a child or a slave is first put to death with an iron club, and then cast into the water to the angry god.

When human beings are not sacrificed, offerings of beads, fibre-cloth, &c., are made.

This sacredness assigned to these lakes probably accounts for the difficulty travellers have found in getting access to them, and seemed to have arisen from the custom of burying chiefs and people

of rank on lakes shores and banks of rivers. A grave is dug near the water where the mummy (for such it really is—corpses being generally preserved before burial) is placed, and the water that was banked up was let into it. When a royal person is buried, so many wives are buried alive with him, and so many slaves put to death on the spot as attendants to accompany him to the spiritual world. This ceremony would be repeated the following year, and for as many years as the people may think necessary, and also on particular occasions when by special circumstances they would be reminded of their duty.

## "KEEP HIGH UP CHRISTIANS."

As I was riding along in the south of France one day, I saw a pair of fine birds overhead. The driver called out in the French tongue, "Eagles!" Yes; and there was a man below with a gun, who was wishful to get a nearer acquaintance with the eagles; but they did not come down to oblige him. He pointed his rifle at them, but his shots did not reach half way, for the royal birds kept above. The higher air is the fit domain for eagles. Up there is the eagle's playground, where he plays with the callow lightnings. Up above the smoke and the clouds he dwells. Keep there, eagles! Keep there! If men can get you within range, they mean no good to you. Keep up Christians! Keep up in the higher regions, resting in Jesus Christ, and do not come down to find a perch for yourself among the trees of philosophy.—Rev. C. H. Spurgeon.

The Presbytery of Manitoba has risen from one congregation and nine preaching stations in 1871 to ten self-sustaining congregations and one hundred and eighty-four preaching stations in 1883. Between the same dates the ministers and missionaries at work have increased in number from four to fifty-eight. A Board of Management has been instituted by the Canadian General Assembly to raise and distribute a fund of \$100,000 in aid of church and manse building in Manitoba and the North-West. Of the proposed sum, \$80,000 have already have subscribed in the Dominion; and all the facts go to show that the Presbyterian Church is going wisely to take an early and a firm grasp of those great and fertile regions now attracting so strong a tide of immigration.—Phil. Pres.