

curse against himself yet hung upon his lips. The daughter did not leave the spot before midnight, and her cries appalled the stoutest hearts around her.—Twenty dollars were raised among the spectators, but when handed to her, she exclaimed, "No! no! give me my father!"

Poor girl, she called in vain. That father was in other presence. She was borne from the place by some friends, and when I left the spot, the lightness of heart which had drawn me to the scene had departed, and I felt it almost a sin to be happy amid the wretchedness man makes for himself.

AFFECTING TIDINGS FROM THE SOUTH SEA ISLANDS.

Appended to several of our Magazines for July, we find a letter, addressed to the directors and friends of Bible and Missionary institutions in Great Britain and America, by R. Ferguson, of the British and Foreign Sailor's Society. It is headed "Affecting intelligence from the South Sea Islands," and is intended to show that all which has been done by Christians in Britain and America, for the islanders of the Pacific during the last 40 or 50 years, is in danger of being lost in consequence of the vices of British and American seamen who visit the islands, and especially by the introduction of ardent spirits in British and American ships. We copy the letter below, in the hope that it will arrest the attention of those who are best able to devise and apply a remedy to the evil.—*N. Y. Observer.*

From Tahiti, to which we have been accustomed to look with more than ordinary interest, he writes:—

"There are so many aggravating circumstances which contribute to lessen the desire of the people for religion, that the present prospect of things here is truly discouraging; added to which, the landing of spirituous liquors is permitted or winked at, from the English traders to the colonies of New South Wales, and ships in the whaling employ, with those from America, which are much more numerous than those of the British. Hopeless, indeed, (humanly speaking) appears every attempt to Christianize the natives of those islands, who are labouring under, and exposed to, these disadvantages, which must ever obstruct the free course of the gospel.

"Although great exertion is made and promoted by the missionaries here, to stop this overwhelming torrent of iniquity, yet their measures are often abortive, and can never be effective, unless co-operated with on the part of the masters of the shipping. Notwithstanding that the diuse of spirituous liquors is rigidly enforced at Tahiti, and no person is allowed to have it in their houses, or if the breath of any of the inhabitants smell of it, a severe fine is imposed; yet, this bane of the human race is still to be purchased on shore, and the supply is kept up by the *American ships*, clandestinely landed at times, amongst the supposed empty casks which are sent on shore for water.

"How dreadful and appalling the consideration, that the intercourse of distant nations should have entailed upon these poor, untutored islanders, a curse unprecedented and unheard of in the history of former times: that one-fourth of the whole population is miserably affected with a disease brought amongst them, and kept up by the licentious crews of their shipping! Will not, shall not the Lord visit for these things?"

On one occasion after Mr. Wheeler had finished his address, in the Missionary chapel at Elmeu, on the evils of intemperance, in which he warned the people of its certain consequences both here and hereafter, one of the principal chiefs made an effort to reply, "but was deterred through fear of giving offence;" yet he did not conceal either his feelings or his sentiments. For afterwards, he told the missionary, Mr. Simpson, what he wished to say to Mr. Wheeler, "on behalf of the natives of these islands and himself," and it may be denominated,

A MESSAGE TO GREAT BRITAIN AND AMERICA:

"I hope he will go to Britannia, and beg the people to have mercy on us; and then go to America, and beg the people there also to have mercy on us; because it was those countries that sent this poison amongst us!"

This must have entered Mr. W's conscience like an arrow.

England and America are the culprits. Before Heaven we stand condemned. Whatever may be the real amount of intemperance and vice which now prevails,—whatever the personal degradation or social misery,—whatever the civil discords and hostilities,—and above all, whatever the apostasy from the faith, all is to be laid to our account. Great God!—we acknowledge our sense of it, and desire to be humbled at thy feet!

But what is to be done? The evil exists; how is it to be remedied? It has been suggested, that every thing possible should be done "to put a stop to a traffic, which entails so much wretchedness and evil." But this would not reach the case. It might restrict the evil, but not remove it. The natives have most unhappily contracted a passion for strong drink and have been taught to "convert even their breadfruit into ardent spirit by distillation." Suppose then the traffic were to cease, and every merchant were to abandon the trade, the natives have now, to a great extent, the means of supply *within themselves*. Besides, there is another source from which this deadly liquid may be obtained. "Though the use of ardent spirits is forbidden in some islands, and though destroyed when found, yet there are too many who carry on the trade in an underhand manner." It is supplied also from the various ships that visit the islands, not excepting those who are denominated TEMPERANCE SHIPS! What a foul blot on the national character of the two countries! "Tell it not in Gath."

BOARD OF MISSIONS!—Constituted to represent and act for the church of Christ! You are most deeply involved in this subject. The darling object of your hearts is here at stake. Is it not in your power, to a very large extent, to prevent and ward off the calamity which threatens some of the most interesting and promising missionary stations abroad? Will you, then, longer suffer to leave your shores in thousands, men, whose influence must act like the most deadly agencies on every heathen settlement, and endanger missions on every shore?

MINISTERS OF CHRIST!—Captains of the army of the redeemed, who are leading them on to conquest and glory!—will you allow the laurels, for which the church has so nobly fought, and which she has so honourably won, to be torn from her brow with a rude hand, and trampled under foot?

CHURCHES OF CHRIST!—Conservators of the world! will you not interpose, and, by an enlightened and united effort, seek to bring seamen under the purifying influence of the gospel, that they may no longer be "the savour of death," among the heathen? The power is in your hands. Your labour in the Lord will not be in vain. The salvation of the seaman, will be not only the safest guard and protection to your missions, but the precursor of the world's salvation!

ENGLAND AND AMERICA!—The two first nations on earth in moral power!—Will you not combine and pledge this power, first to rescue the sailor from his own personal degradation and misery, and then, through his salvation, seek to save your missions, redeem the race, and bless the world.

R. FERGUSON.

*British and Foreign Sailor's Society's Rooms,
2, Jeffrey-square, St. Mary Axe.*

London, June, 1839.

REV. R. WHYTEHEAD.—Through the kindness of a much esteemed friend we have before us a copy of the admirable Essay of this Author, entitled, *The Claims of Christian Philanthropy*. It is a prize essay; the prize having been awarded by the PHILANTHROPIC SOCIETY, ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS, LONDON, instituted in 1788, on behalf of the *offspring of convicts*. It bears so closely, in many parts, on the subject of temperance, and is so fully to our mind, that we feel disposed to quote from it largely. At page 159, the author says:—

"As habits of vice naturally lead to Intemperance, so, on the other hand, drunkenness fosters every other kind of vice. They reciprocally act upon and augment each other; so that the more depraved is the population of a neighbourhood, the more drunkenness is usually found to prevail, and vice *versu*. Thus, the amount of the consumption of intoxicating liquors, at any given time and place, will form a measure, not unjust or inapplicable, of the state of morals and religion. Allowance being made for other circumstances, it will be true in general, that as the morality of a people advances or retrogrades, so also will their addiction to intemperate