

spiritual blessings, refer to the grace, or love of God, but to the divine omnipotence. 'God is able,' says he, 'to make all grace (favour) abound toward you; that ye, always having all-sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: being enriched in everything to all bountifulness.' So far from being impoverished, or having their worldly means lessened, by what they gave to God in the manner directed by the Apostle, the Lord who regulates the affairs of providence, and whose are the silver and the gold, would so favour them, as to give them 'an all-sufficiency in all things, enrich them to all bountifulness,' and enable them 'to abound in every good work.'

Were this doctrine of providential recompense—the scriptural evidence for which we have thus briefly stated—spoken of at any meeting of Christian friends, it would be found that some one present would say, 'I can give an instance or instances of this.' We have heard of many cases in which the promise seemed to be literally fulfilled. But we advert only to one, recorded in the gospel narrative. Our Lord was standing on the shore of the Sea of Galilee; the crowd pressed inconveniently upon him; he asked Peter, who had not then been called to follow him, to thrust out his boat a little from the land; Peter did so; from it Jesus addressed the multitude; and when he had done so, he repaid Peter on the spot for the use of the boat, by giving him a large draught of fishes.

But, as in many other things, we must make the fulfillment of this promise a matter of faith. If we believe that there is such a promise, we are to credit it, and to act upon it, and to leave the manner of its accomplishment to him who gave it. This may be done in many forms; such as keeping us in health, granting us employment, and blessing us in our worldly means. We may not in every case have sensible evidence, just as it is often difficult to see how all things are working together for good to them that love God; but of this we may be certain, that the Lord will faithfully perform his promise.

Finally, it is evident from this doctrine of repayment, that it is neither wise nor dutiful, in seasons of pecuniary difficulty, to neglect the claims of God's service. If we are actuated by right and proper motives, we shall be gainers by what we give to the Lord. The laying aside of his portion will sanctify and increase all that remains. 'Bring ye,' says God, 'all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house; and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.'

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

LATER INTELLIGENCE FROM THE NEW HEBRIDES.

We are happy to announce that the last September mail brought a number of letters from our Missionaries, conveying intelligence of the continued health of the Missionaries, and the steady progress of their work. We subjoin the communications to the Board, of Messrs. Geddie and Matheson.

ANITEUM, NEW HEBRIDES, May 23d, 1862.

Rev and Dear Sir,—

Your letter of date Sept. 16, 1861, came lately to hand. It was encouraging to learn from it that you are not "unduly depressed" by the events which have befallen the mission. Our trials have indeed been great, but we have had our encouragements as well as our reverses. It may be that God is preparing our mission for a glorious future by the severe discipline through which it passes. Let us seek a double portion of Job's unwavering faith, who, when heaven and earth seemed to frown on him, could say, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him."