

land will heartily unite in this expression of Christian feeling. Permit us to suggest that the only definite and efficient course is to unite against *prelatical assumption and usurpation*, and the great pernicious error of *baptismal regeneration*. Overthrow these, and Puseyism and Romanism will be overthrown also. Let these remain, and though you cut down the briars and thorns of Oxford and Roman heresy, they will certainly spring up again, and grow as vigorously as ever. Why then shall not all unite upon these points—and write on our common banner, “*Obsta principiis.*”

## MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.

### “THE HABITATIONS OF CRUELTY.”

The following dreadful scenes are related in a letter received by the Secretaries of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, from Robert Brooking, a Wesleyan missionary in Western Africa. It was read in the principal Methodist chapels in England, as presenting a powerful appeal to the feelings of Christians in behalf of the pagan world. The Rev. gentleman, after describing many things of minor importance, proceeds to add:

“On the 6th of the last month, (January) one of the king's daughters died, and a custom was made during which three poor creatures were hurried into eternity in the shape of sacrifices, one of whose headless trunks I saw dragged through the market place.—On Sunday the 9th, after preaching, I went to take the air, when I came unexpectedly upon the headless trunk of a human being who had been executed a few minutes previously. His hands were lopped off, and one of the executioners was engaged in cutting off a part of the chin with the beard on it. On the 13th the old chief Kumassi died, in consequence of which a larger custom was made. During the day, twelve persons were sacrificed. I saw the pushing of a knife through the cheek of one poor creature, to prevent her from cursing the king.

This was done almost instantaneously, after which her hands were tied behind her back, and in this state she was left some time, until executed. On the 17th, two persons were executed for conspiracy and treason. I saw those persons with knives driven through their cheeks, their hands fastened by iron staples to logs of wood. I saw the head of one of them struck off.—His blood served to besmear the king's drum, &c. His heart was then taken out, and also one of his ribs, all of which was done in the sight of a survivor. They both retained their faculties till the last moment, and were quite aware of what was going on. On the 18th, while returning from the king's house, I saw the head and hand of one of those who were executed the preceding day, carried by an individual with as much

unconcern as a butcher's boy would carry the head of a sheep.

On the 22d a fire broke out, which was soon extinguished. Scarcely was that done, however, when a house in another part of the town took fire, during which time the wind blew rather strong, and the fire spread and burnt down three fourths of the most thickly populated part of the town, in the incredible short space of four hours. I never saw such a scene before; the fire raged with incredible fury. It was truly heart rending to see women and children retreating before it. On the 30th a man of consequence died, and twelve individuals were sent into another world to accompany him, five of whose headless trunks and six heads were lying together at one time in the streets. Our reception was good, and our prospects are delightful; yet the scenes we sometimes witness are absolutely revolting to human nature.

### ARRIVAL OF MRS. WILLIAMS FROM THE SOUTH SEAS.

We have cordial satisfaction in announcing the long expected arrival of the respected and beloved widow of the late Rev. John Williams. Mrs. W., accompanied by her youngest son, a youth ten years of age, reached the port of London, from Sydney, in the *Cairo*, on the 25th of October. We are thankful in being able to state that her health has been greatly improved by the voyage, and that, under the sudden and awful dispensation that deprived her of her attached and honored husband, aggravated by the new trial of *returning solitary to her native land*, her mind has been graciously sustained by the consolations of the Gospel.

We copy the following extract of a letter from Mrs. Williams to the Directors of the London Missionary Society.

“It is now twenty-six years since we became connected with the London Missionary Society, and I must still say, I cannot feel myself separated from your noble institution; while I shall ever esteem it my highest honor to have been engaged in the great cause which you aim to advance, as the wife of such a man as my late beloved and honored husband. Widely as he was known to the churches, and intimately as some of you were acquainted with his character, I may be permitted to say, that no one knew so well as I did, how entirely his whole heart and soul were devoted to his work, and how truly he counted not his life dear unto him, so that he might glorify God, and win souls to Christ. These were the ends, I can testify, for which he lived and for which he died. Often has he said to me, “Life is short for so great a work as ours, and we must therefore labor while it is called to-day.

“As our arrival in England has been so long delayed, it may be proper for me to state