

had been rescued by the power of divine grace and the blessing of God attending the efforts of the missionaries, from a state of absolute paganism, or the no less pitiable and far more dangerous condition of nominal Christianity. Previous to the ordinance being administered, a sermon in Portuguese, suited to the occasion, was preached to a crowded and attentive congregation, in the Baptist chapel, Slave Island, by Mr. E. M'Carthy. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. J. Harris, according to the primitive and apostolic mode, the candidates going "down into the water," and "coming up again" after being baptized, or dipped, by the minister of God, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; thus preserving the force and beauty of the emblem used by the sacred writer, and the existence of the analogy between being buried with Christ in baptism, and rising again; and dying unto sin, but becoming alive unto holiness. Before entering the lake, after a hymn had been sung, Mr. H. delivered a most powerful and awakening address in the open air to a large assemblage, which had come together from various motives to witness the performance of this rite, in a manner which to many of them doubtless appeared singular and novel, but which was attended with a degree of awful solemnity, that must have deeply impressed the minds of all present, and induced them if they came to scoff, to remain to pray. The preacher dwelt but slightly upon the difference that exists among Christians of various denominations on the subject of baptism, addressing himself more particularly to the hearts and consciences of his hearers, and urging upon them, by the considerations of the shortness and uncertainty of life and the nearness of eternity, the necessity of immediate repentance and belief in the Lord Jesus Christ. As the strains of the speaker's voice, who seemed almost inspired by the awful importance of his subject, rose clear and high upon the noontide air, while the calm and silver lake lay glittering beneath the fervid rays of the bright-beaming sun, and the feathery branches of the palm-trees scarcely rustled in the gentle breeze,—imagination transported us to the far off land of Palestine, and for a time standing upon the banks of the high swelling Jordan we seemed to behold him who was as "the voice of one crying in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his path straight;" and we heard the Baptist, as of old, addressing the vast multitude who flocked to him to be baptized, *confessing their sins*, "Who hath warned you flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance!" The candidates for baptism stood by the preacher, among whom a Rhodia

from Mackenzie School excited peculiar interest, and attracted attention, not only from his position as the very first (we believe) of this hitherto despised and degraded race who had been, in this manner, admitted into all the exalted privileges of Christianity; but from the evident and deep impression which the truths of the gospel had made upon his soul, his countenance beaming with such intelligence as showed it to be the index of a mind filled with peace and joy unspeakable, and the hope of eternal glory. Well might the preacher, in admitting the outcast Rhodia into the communion of the church, dwell upon the superior excellence of Christianity, which alone, by its mild and gentle power, is sufficient to break down the barriers and obliterate the distinctions, which proud, uncivilized, and irreligious man has erected between himself and his fellow. Indeed, a more spirit stirring and gratifying sight can scarcely be imagined. "In England," as was remarked by the missionary, "they talk much of such scenes, and with deep interest: but, oh! what would they not give to partake of the high privilege which we enjoy, of seeing the heathen coming unto Christ as the doves fly unto their windows?"

We are led to believe, that what we witnessed on this occasion, is but the harbinger of good things to come. The dawn of a brighter day seems breaking, and the shadows and clouds of darkness and idolatry, of sin and superstition which have long brooded over and enveloped this beautiful isle, seem destined soon to roll away and be dispersed before the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness, who even now riseth above the moral horizon, with healing in his wings.

The Lord seems to have bared his arm, and in an especial manner to have blessed the efforts of his servants lately. May the great and good work prosper; may the Spirit of God be poured out abundantly; may the gospel have free course and be glorified; may the Saviour gird his sword upon his thigh, and come and take possession of his inheritance! May idolatry and every thing that exalteth itself against him be cast down; may Buddhism perish, and may devil-worship be abolished! May the blessed period soon arrive, when all in this land shall know and believe in the name of Christ, from the least even unto the greatest—when no other name shall be honoured, and no other worship acknowledged, but that of the Lord Jehovah, the Saviour-God! Then, indeed, may highly-favoured Ceylon be termed, in the language of truth, as of poetry, 'The Eden of the sea—the paradise of the East!'