

tion went on, this man shewed much acquaintance with Scripture. "You know much," I said; "but do you act up to it?" "I must do so?" "You believe on Christ; but will that save you without public profession?"—"No," said he; "at the judgment-day He will say, 'I never knew you.'"

I cannot attempt to describe the feelings which this conversation awoke in my heart. Joy, delight, and yet intense sorrow—I cannot say which feeling prevailed. For surely this man ought to have professed Christ long, long ago. Why this sad and fearful delay? "Well," said I, "do you now declare your willingness to profess Christ publicly, and confess in the sight of all men that you are His disciple?" "I do," he replied. "Even to be baptized?" With scarcely a moment's hesitation, he said, "Yes." "Baptism!" cried one of the people around, (who were all listening with deep attention,) "what is the use of baptism?" The man who had just declared his readiness to be baptized, replied, "It is a mark, a proof that one belongs to Christ—it is a public acknowledgment." "And shall I write your name as ready to make that public acknowledgment?" I asked, taking out my pocket-book and proceeding to use my pencil. "Write it," said he. And here it stands before me now, written as he wished. "Shall I write yours also?" I said to another man who had spoken against idolatry. "Ask the Patel what he says," he answered. "Well, Patel, we come to you," said I; "you see what influence you have over others; you have declared you believe on Christ; are you ready to make a public profession of that faith?" "I do already; I make no secret of my belief; nor have I done so for years," said he. "Will you profess Christ openly in the sight of the whole world? Will you come out from caste and every evil thing? Will you obey Christ's commandments in everything?" "I cannot be baptized," said he. "Why not?" I sorrowfully asked. "It is not necessary," said the Patel. I quoted a text saying that he who beliveth and is baptized the same shall be saved; but the Patel continued—"The Bible tells us to do justly, to speak the truth, to shun idols, to worship one God, to believe on Christ: all

that is right, and all that I do; but baptism is another thing." "That means," I answered, "that you will not obey all God's commandments, and that you will make no public profession. Will you ever profess Christ's name?" "When my mind changes," said he, "not till then." I was deeply sorry for the quiet, old man, so calmly, yet resolutely, stating his inability to declare himself on Christ's side. All around, with the exception of the man who had let me write his name, sided with the Patel. "Are you not unreasonable?" they asked; "we have given up idolatry; we will obey all the commandments of the Bible except the one about baptism; is not that enough?" After earnestly warning them of the consequences of this vain profession, I said to my two Christian companions, "Let us pray for these poor people." We stood up; and, unbidden, all the natives rose too, and remained quite quiet, and, I believe, attentive, till the prayer was ended. I then said to the Patel and those near him—*anxious to say something that would pierce*: "Idolaters in the wild villages worship stones, because they know no better; they boast of their stone gods, because they think them real gods. You know, but obey not; you scorn God's command; you do to Him as I do to this bit of straw, you trample His command under your feet." I expected the Patel would be displeased; but the quiet, impassive old man, with a kind of half sigh, merely said, "It is too true." I think the reply made me sadder than ever. How dreadful to hang thus suspended for years between heaven and hell, and, finally, with full consciousness, drop into perdition! A pleasing old man in many respects was the Patel—very mild in demeanour, unassuming, and apparently sincere in all he said. Oh that he had strength to declare himself a follower of Christ, and to come out and be separate!

AMERICAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The anniversary meeting in behalf of the Board was held lately at Irving Hall, New York. Rev Dr. Peters opened the exercises by prayer, and a hymn was sung, after which Rev. Mr.