

mands study—and study of endless truth will bring knowledge and true wisdom.—Having such wisdom combined with piety, the minister will shine like a star—not wandering and pale, but fixed and brilliant—or, to sum up the whole in one scriptural phrase, he will be a *burning* and a *shining* light.

Are these things so? Then how should the ministry strive for holiness? Then how should the people pray that the ministry may be filled with the holy spirit!

Putting Resolutions into Practice.

At a missionary meeting held among the negroes at Jamaica, these three resolutions were agreed upon:

1. We will all give something.
2. We will all give as God has enabled us.
3. We will all give willingly.

So soon as the meeting was over, a leading negro took his seat at the table, with pen and ink, to put down what each came to give. Many came forward and gave, some more and some less. Amongst those that came was a rich old negro almost as rich as all the others put together, and threw down upon the table a small silver coin. "Take dat back again," said the negro that received the money. "Dat is not according to de second." The rich old man accordingly took it up, and hobbled back again to his seat in a rage. One after another came forward, and as almost all gave more than himself, he was fairly ashamed of himself, and again threw down a piece of money on the table, saying—"Dare, take dat!" It was a valuable piece of gold, but it was given so ill-temperedly, that the negro answered again, "No! dat won't do yet. It may be according to de first and second resolutions, but not according to de last," and he was obliged to take up his coin again. Still angry at himself and all the rest, he sat a long time, till nearly all had gone, and then came up to the table, with a smile on his face, and very willingly gave a large sum to the treasury. "Very well," said the negro, "Dat will do. Dat according to all de resolutions."

"Be Courteous."

Peter says: "Be courteous." His meaning differs little from such exhortations as: "The servant of the Lord must be gentle;" "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love, in honor preferring one another;" "Let each esteem other better than themselves." In view of these passages, the term gentleman, commonly used, is well selected. It is properly applied to any one who is kind, respectful and courteous in his

intercourse with others. Gentleness is one of the signs of piety. "The fruits of the Spirit are gentleness and meekness."—Courtesy is the manifestation of a gentle, kind, and respectful spirit in the treatment of others. It is a christian duty and an ornament of beauty.

Self-Examination.

The events which are now occurring, both in religious affairs and in commercial, call upon Christians to pause and reflect. The pressure of cares, and the animating glow of enterprise, under which deep religious contemplation was so much excluded, have now subsided, and it is time for consideration. The piety of the present age needs to be invigorated by devotional reading and study. Superstition once called Christians in multitudes to the cloister—and piety itself first prompted the movement. But now there is little danger of this. The cry—the watchword of the age is *Action, action*. This is all right; but let us not forget that our action, in order to be efficient, must be the *action* of the heavenly *mind*—of the *truth-fraught* and *truth-loving soul*. It must be the action whose birthplace is the closet—whose nourishment is daily drawn from the closet—and whose objects and prospects are all derived from the study of God's holy Word, and from communion with his Holy Spirit.

Influence of Missions on Commerce.

There is, says Mr. Dibble, one result of the missionary effort which is often overlooked: the safety secured to ships in the Pacific, that visit to refit or recruit in the different groups of islands. In former times there was not an island in all Polynesia where a ship could touch without imminent peril. There is scarcely a group of islands with which is not connected some tale of massacre. Now, throughout the whole of Eastern Polynesia, except, perhaps, the Marquesas Islands, ships may anchor, refit, and recruit, and the seamen may wander in safety over the fields and through the groves.

If the missions in the Pacific had been sustained entirely by our Government and the Governments of Europe, it would have been a small expenditure compared with the mere commercial advantages which have been gained—a far more economical expenditure than characterizes most of our national enterprises. What does it require to support one man-of-war, or one exploring squadron? Yet how limited the result in comparison!—how small, I say, if we look merely to the commercial benefit to the world!