

went to the missionary and called him at midnight from his bed, to receive instructions in the truth.

THE DARKNESS HATES THE LIGHT.

John iii. 19: Men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil.

"Teacher, whiteman" said a Caffre to the missionary; "we black people love not the news you bring us. We are black and we prefer to live in darkness and sin; you disturb us in this; you set yourself against our practices you persuade our children to forsake our customs; you destroy our Kraals and devour our cattle; you are the ruin of our tribe and we tell you today, if you do not stop it, we will forsake you and this whole region, and go where the Gospel cannot reach us." "But how do you make that out?" said the missionary. "I indeed oppose your practices because they are contrary to the word of God and utterly evil; so that they will certainly bring you to ruin if you do not forsake them. I teach your children as yourselves to be wise, good and happy. But how do I devour your cattle, destroy your Kraals and your tribe? Do I not pay you for everything I get of you, and am I not a benefit to you in other respects?" "Yes but you preach repentance and faith; and a penitent, believing man is as good as dead to us. He takes no more pleasure in what we do; he does not build his father's Kraal, but forsakes it and goes to church, and entices others also to the station. As to our herds, our wives are our herds; and teach them that they ought not to be sold like cattle, but clothed and taught and made servants of God instead of slaves of men. In this way you devour our cattle. Many have left us and gone to the station, and many more are going. Therefore if you continue acting and teaching in this way, we will leave you and go to another region."

THEY WILL NOT.

Jer. v. 3: They have made their faces harder than a rock; they refused to return.

The first Moravian missionaries in Surinam often received in answer to their invitation to come and hear the word of God, the determined reply, "We will not hear it!" In vain they warned the people not to despise the Word and offered grace of God.—They persisted in their refusal; "We will not!" They unreservedly declared to the missionary Schmidt their determination to live as their fathers had done; "If they are gone to the devil, we will go to him too." In New Zealand also, a similar resistance to the Gospel was experienced by the first English missionaries. When they began to ring their bells, it was not seldom the signal for the natives to run away and go to

fishing and sailing in the sea. If they succeeded in gathering a little company around them, it generally happened that one of them would rise up in the middle of the sermon and cry out, "it is a lie! it is a lie! let us all go;" and the majority of the audience would leave with contempt. Yet here, as in Surinam, the missionary churches can joyfully sing: *now they will.*

THE CONFESSION OF A CONVERT.

1 Peter i. 14: Not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance.

A converted South African was once asked: "How did you feel in your savage state, before the Gospel reached you? How did you feel when after secret or open sins, you laid you head upon the silent pillow? Did you experience no fear in your heart, did no startling vision seem to visit your eyes, was there no movement of conscience reproving you for your evil deeds?" "None," was the answer. "How could we feel, or how experience fear? It never entered our minds that an unseen eye beheld us and an unseen ear heard us. What could we know of ourselves or of another world before life and immortality were brought to us by the word of God?" It was amid a flood of tears that the converted heathen laid down the testimony, and added, "you found us beasts, not men."

THE LOVE WHICH PASSETH KNOWLEDGE.

1 John iii. 1: Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God.

Once when the missionary Schwartz in Tranquebar was at work upon the translation of the New Testament into the Malabar language with the assistance of a native and the above passage: "Behold what manner of love" &c., was reached, the native was unwilling to render it literally. "Nay," said he, "that is too high and too much that God should call us his children. I will translate it, 'that we may kiss the feet of the Father,' that is noble and great enough."

If the lower side of that pavement which the feet of the saints shall walk upon in heaven be so glorious a ceiling to us on earth, that no art of man or riches of the world can sample it, what be the parlors and chambers unseen. If the sun, the light of the world, be of such majesty, what is the brightness and glory of its Maker?

Human Strength.

Human strength is very weakness;
Man is but a breathing clod,
Only powerful in meekness,
And abiding trust in God.