

three-halfpence; then I sold my knife, and with that money, together with what Mr. Topping gave me, I bought this Testament. I did not want to part with my knife, but I wanted a Testament of my own—and here it is!”

Who, to obtain a copy of the New Testament, has made a sacrifice equal to that which this once neglected outcast made to obtain one?

This poor lad bids fair to become a worthy member of society.—*Ragged School Magazine.*

### JAMAICA.

#### BOOKS IN GRAVE STONES.

SOME years ago, a missionary in Jamaica received from the British and Foreign Bible Society a grant of Testaments for the use of such Negroes as could read. Having assembled his sable flock, after mentioning the receipt of this valuable present, he intimated that he thought, by using proper exertions, they might all learn to read within twelve months, and promised that as soon as they could read it, they should each receive one of the Testaments for private use. At first their faces brightened up, but the question recurring, How can this be done? it speedily caused the smile to vanish. The good pastor, guessing the cause of their speechless perplexity, intimated that, since a certain number of the congregation could read, if they would each teach five who could not, the aim would soon be accomplished. Thirty Negroes accepted the word of exhortation, and volunteered their services.

An obstacle, however—like that which impedes the progress of too many Ragged Schools, namely, the want of adequate machinery met these earnest-minded labourers at the very outset. They did not like to degrade the Bible into a mere lesson book, and they had no means of obtaining regular school books. How, then, were they to explain the mysteries of the alphabet became a grave question. With that facile suggestiveness which is native to the Negro mind, they resolved, since they had no lesson book, to teach the alphabet, aye, and even reading, *without books*. Thereupon, after due notice, they assembled their illiterate brethren in *the grave-yards*; and there, by means of the quaint epitaphs, they taught the alphabet and the rudiments of reading.

#### AN EXAMPLE FOR IDLE CHRISTIANS.

Some months after the pastor had made his proposition for the knowers to teach the unlearned, he met an aged Negro leaving his hut long after the sun had set below the horizon. In reply