

skeletons, scarcely able to stand, or with their parched tongues to articulate a word, were rescued from the horrible death which their comrades had already met. And out of that whole ship's company, but five or six lived through these scenes of almost unearthly wretchedness, to be restored to their homes. I might describe many of the details of this scene, but they are too harrowing to the feelings to be narrated.

The point to which I wish the attention to be directed by these facts is this—that if there had been a missionary station at the Marquesas Islands, all this extreme suffering and loss of life would have been prevented. Availing themselves of the steady trade winds of that latitude, in a few days they could have run down to the Marquesas Islands, and there, in the hospitable dwellings of the missionaries, and aided by the humanizing influence of gospel missions upon the natives, they might have remained, with every want supplied, till some American whale-ship, touching at the Islands, should have received them on board, and have conducted them in safety to their homes. All of the men could probably have been employed in the service of other ships, and thus the disaster to themselves and their families would have been immeasurably lightened. But there was no missionary station at the Marquesas Islands. For these shipwrecked mariners to appear on their shores was certain death—perhaps death by the most horrible torture. And they therefore prepared to encounter all that is terrible in starvation on the ocean, rather than to land on the islands of heathenism.

There is many a ship-owner now, who will not contribute a dollar to the support of foreign missions. There are many who have friends at sea who are inimical to this cause. Indeed, it would not be at all strange, if the owners of the ship *Essex*, and the friends of these unhappy seamen, during the ninety-three days in which they were suffering all the horrors of famine and death upon the inhospitable ocean, because there were no missionaries at the Marquesas Islands, were speaking in terms of hostility and contempt of the exertions of Christians to establish the principles of the gospel upon all the islands of the Pacific Ocean.—*N. Y. Evangelist*.

#### PRAYER FOR THE MINISTRY.

Were people much in this duty, pastors would find it; and so people themselves receive back their prayers with much gain into their own bosom. They would have the returning benefit of it, as the vapors that go up from below fall down in sweet showers, and make it fruitful. Thus, if there went up many prayers for pastors, their doctrine would distil as the dew, and the sweet influence of it would make as fruitful valleys the humble hearts receiving it.

It is an inestimable blessing to have the saving light of the Gospel shining clear in the faithful and powerful ministry of it. They thought so who said of their worthy teacher—"Satis solem non lucere, quam Chrysostom non docere"—"Better that the sun should not shine, than that Chrysostom should not teach."—*Leighton*.

#### RELIGION IN AMERICA.

"In common with the rest of New England," says Mr. Joseph Sturge, "Worcester is remarkable for the number, size, and beauty of its places of worship. I calculated, with the aid of a well-informed inhabitant, that, if the entire population were to go to a place of worship at the same hour, in the same day, there would be ample accommodation, and room to spare. Yet here there is no compulsory tax to build churches, to maintain ministers. By the efficiency of the Voluntary Principle alone is this state of things produced. There are few things more striking in the Free States, than the number and commodiousness of the places of worship. In the New England States, however general, the attendance might be, none would be excluded for want of room. The other means or accompaniments of religious instruction are in the same abundance. How is it possible to evade the conclusion, that Christianity flourishes most when it is unincumbered and uncorrupted by State Patronage? What favoured portion of the United Kingdom could compare its religious statistics with New England?"

#### POETRY.

##### A MORE CONVENIENT SEASON.

BY MRS. SIGOURNEY.

ALONE he wept. That very night  
The ambassador of God, with earnest zeal  
Of eloquence, had warned him to repent;  
And like the Roman at Drusilla's side,  
Hearing the truth, he trembled. Conscience  
wrought,  
Yet sin allured. The struggle shook him sore;  
The dim lamp waned; the hour of midnight told:  
Prayer sought for entrance, but the heart had  
closed

Its diamond valve. He threw him on his couch,  
And bade the Spirit of his God depart.  
But there was war within him, and he sighed,  
"Depart not utterly, thou Blessed!  
Return when youth is passed, and make my soul  
forever thine."

With kindling brow he trod  
The haunts of pleasure, while the viol's voice,  
And Beauty's smile, his joyous pulses woke.  
To Love he knelt, and on his brow she hung  
Her freshest myrtle wreath. For gold he sought