

'About a year ago he became somewhat ailing in health ; but was not so ill as to cause any alarm to his friends. He continued more earnest and devoted than ever in reading the Scriptures himself, and explaining them to others, and in prayer. On one particular evening, he appeared especially anxious to speak seriously and solemnly to every one of his friends ; and, whilst reading from the Book of the Revelation the description of heaven, he was himself much affected. After finishing the chapter he laid down the book, asked his friends if they understood the beautiful words he had read, if they could see the beautiful city, if they did not then behold the glorious light. Later the same evening, without any apparent pain, and without a struggle, he passed through the dark valley of the shadow of death, into the glorious presence of the God whom he had served and loved.

'Some time before his death he had desired his friends, when he died, to place in his hand, in the grave, the 'book of life ;' a small tract of which he was very fond ; and to distribute the few Scripture Portions which he had, far and wide, that all may learn the truth and come to God. The Bible which he had so long read, he desired to be kept in the house, and read amongst his friends, whom he entreated still to meet as they were wont. He had earnestly exhorted his wife and mother, and, in fact, all his friends, to hold fast the Word of God, to remember the story of the rich man and Lazarus, to be prepared to forsake all that they held in the world for the sake of Christ, remembering His word, 'If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.' He had repeatedly assured them that 'true piety consisteth not in reading the Word of God, nor in hearing it, but in faithfully walking according to its precepts.' He had expressed a great hope that, at some time, he should see a Christian teacher, and learn from him the best way of keeping the Sabbath, the full meaning of baptism and the Lord's Supper. He appears not to have seen the necessity of baptism by water ; and often said that he thought the true baptism was that of the Holy Ghost that purifies the soul.

'Those who had listened much to his teaching, when alive, revere his memory, carefully treasure up his words, and speak of him as their 'beloved teacher, whom God had sent to them.' Some others in the town and surrounding villages who revered him living, but who knew not the real spirit of his teaching and the humility of his life, after his death brought offerings of cocoanuts and incense, and offered a kind of worship at his grave, believing him to be a saint through whose intercession with God, on their behalf, they may obtain heaven. This practice was continued until very recently.

'These are the facts which were related to us concerning a young man who had become a Christian indeed, without the help or direction of any Christian teacher but the Word of God, and the Spirit of God who reveals the things of God to every honest inquiring mind ; and these facts of a Christian life were noted, and related to us by persons who had never read a Christian memoir, and who had no personal knowledge of any Christian man or woman, but the one whose life had made so deep an impression upon themselves. We were very careful to make inquiries of various persons in the town who knew Seeta Ram, but were entirely disinterested in him and his work ; and everything we could learn from them was so much the more in confirmation of the facts above related ; every one bearing the highest testimony to his consistent and devoted life, and his great zeal in the new faith he had embraced.

'We must now relate, as briefly as possible, what we ourselves saw of the effects of his teaching, which will afford the highest possible testimony to his perfect knowledge of Scripture, his clear understanding and appreciation of the same, and the aptitude and force with which he taught it to others. This will render necessary a short notice of some of those persons who formed the nucleus of Seeta Ram's congregation, and who especially regarded him as their teacher. This congregation was composed of his mother, his wife, and two men before mentioned, and two women of very respectable position in