

and persecution were turned out, unarmed and naked, to be devoured by wild beasts, more infuriated by hunger. How many miserable captive Jews reserved from the slaughter of their devoted city were brought here—

"To flesh the lions ravenous jaws or feel
The sportive fury of the fencer's steel."

How many Christian Martyrs witnessed here a good confession; pouring out their blood like water, when there was none to pity them. It was in this great amphitheatre that the venerable Ignatius, the disciple of St. John, was torn to pieces by lions—and this too in the reign of the mild and virtuous Trajan! Do you wonder as well as shudder at the perpetration of such dreadful barbarities. We may charitably believe, that among those who occupied seats at this Circus, there were some who turned away sickened and faint at the sight. They may have loathed the dismal spectacles, but were compelled to attend if not by actual command, yet through fear of offending by absence their jealous and vindictive tyrants. But the far greater part could look on with exultation and a horrid thrill of joy. Familiar with such sights, and drunk with blood, the Roman had grown hardened by habit; and become unfeeling, cruel, savage and brutalized. It was not till the age of Constantine, the first Christian Emperor, that a stop was put to these bloody and debasing exhibitions.

B.

THE FAREWELL OF A MISSIONARY PARTY.

An interesting gathering took place lately at the house of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign parts, in Pall-mall, the occasion being a farewell service to a missionary party, about to proceed, under the auspices of the society, to Burmah and Malacca. The service was held in accordance with a resolution adopted by the society in June last, to the effect that "the colonial and missionary bishops, and all missionaries and other agents of the society about to proceed on foreign service, as well as on their occasional return to this country, be, when it is possible, invited to meet the standing committee, and also to join the officers and members of the society in such religious services as may, from time to time, be approved by the president." Among those present were the Bishop of Oxford, Bishop Smith, (late of Victoria, China), the Revs. G. Ainslie, J. W. Buckley, R. M. Benson, W. G. E. Knollys, B. Belcher, C. B. Pearson, N. Wade, P. Thresher, R. West, P. Cazenove, Esq., &c. The Rev. W. T. Bullock, secretary of the society, introduced the missionary party, consisting of the Rev. E. E. Marks, who has already laboured some time in Burmah; Mr. Fairclough, a student of St. Augustine's College, a candidate for holy orders for mission work in Burmah; Mr. R. Rawlings, as schoolmaster (with his two sons) for Burmah, Miss Cooke, to be schoolmistress at Rangoon; Miss J. Williams and Miss K. Smith, for the Free Female Educational Institution at Malacca. All these (except Mr. Marks) were to sail the same day in the *Indiana* for Rangoon. After reading the lesson and a Psalm, the Bishop of Oxford delivered a most earnest and eloquent address to the party, pointing out the trials and difficulties of mission work, and urging, in burning words, the necessity of piety, earnestness, watchfulness and devotion to their work. After prayer the Bishop pronounced the blessing most impressively, and the Rev. J. E. Marks, having, in a few words, shown the great opening for mission work in Burmah, where it appears the people are most anxious to be taught, and urged most earnestly the necessity of adding largely to the mission staff for that important field of labour, the meeting separated.—*Church Times*.