

as well as abroad. Have you ever heard a saying of that eminent missionary, William Carey, before he left for India. "I," said he to a brother minister "will go down into the well if you will hold the rope." If you do not clearly understand this figurative language, you must ask your parents or teachers to explain it, so that you may know what we mean when we say that we and other missionaries have gone down into the well, and that we want you to help to hold the rope. But how can children hold the rope? What can they do in so great and difficult a work? They can do a great deal. There is no doubt about it; because they have already done much. Children have already laid hold of the rope, and held on most nobly. The children of England, as you all know, bought the "John Williams," and they have raised almost, if not all, the money that has been needed to pay her expenses for seventeen years' past. Then there is the "Morning Star," bought by the children of American Sabbath Schools; and there is the Calabar Mission schooner, also purchased by children. Besides these, there are several other missionary vessels. It is likely you have heard of most of them. There is the "John Wesley," the "Southern Cross" (lately wrecked), the "Dove," the "Harm my," the "Candace," in Germany, and our own "John Knox." Thus, you see, there is a goodly number of ships these days employed in the blessed work of carrying the Gospel to the heathen, and you see that of these vessels three were purchased by children; and this brings us to the point we wish to lay before you. *The John Knox has done us good service for the last five years; but she is now altogether too small for us, and we want another vessel of seventy or eighty tons burden, and we want you to aid in getting the vessel for us.* And this is the way in which we wish you to hold the rope. We want this vessel to visit the teachers and missionaries on the islands where they now are, to carry them to islands that are still heathen, and to make an annual visit to the Australian colonies, during the hurricane months, to bring supplies for missionaries and teachers, and to keep the subject of missions before the minds of Christians in these colonies. There is far more work of this kind than the "John Williams" can do, and unless we get another vessel, a long time must pass before the light of the Gospel reach the many islands that remain in darkness. Should you respond to our call and get us another vessel, she will be chiefly employed among a large group of islands of which you have heard, no doubt—the New Hebrides. This group of islands, some thirty of which, as Espirito Santo and Malicolo, are very large, the former being 200, and the latter 150 miles in circumference. And then these islands are so beautiful. If you saw them, you would almost fancy you were looking upon a Paradise; but, alas! they are, with the single exception of Aneiteum, inhabited by savage men, who are constantly practising deeds of abomination, and cruelty which it would chill your blood to hear. They worship gods of wood and stone, in which they suppose the spirits of dead men and other wicked spirits dwell, and though they are greatly afraid of these spirits, yet that does not prevent them from working all manner of wickedness. They lie, and steal, and quarrel, and fight; they murder one another, and even eat one another. And then they are so cruel to the sick and aged, and women and children. The sick are often allowed to die for want, or buried alive, instead of being laid in a nice snug bed, as you are when you are ill, and tenderly cared for and nursed by dear mothers and sisters. Women are often most cruelly treated, and not unfrequently murdered, and so are little children. Some poor creatures get so weary of their wretched lives that they go and drown or strangle themselves, or perhaps throw themselves from a cocoa-nut tree or a high rock. And even the strong, and those who oppress others, have no peace themselves, but are in constant fear of being murdered, or injured by evil spirits. They always go armed, and sleep with their clubs and spears under their pillows; so you see what a pitiable state is that in which the poor heathens are, and you see they are all alike miserable. There is no one can help his neighbor if he were so disposed. Now, dear children, we look to you and appeal to you, to put it into our power to carry to these wretched perishing men the Gospel of Christ, which alone can remove their miseries: We know it can do that, because it has already done it for Aneiteum, and many other lands which, a few years ago, was just as these islands are now. Up! then, dear children, and put your hands to this good work. You cannot begin too soon, nor can you engage in a nobler cause. Your