

then bring disgrace upon the cause of Christ. There is especially a pretty large class—most of them Roman Catholics, who go about through the country as beggars. These men are utterly ignorant of Christianity, and are a deeply degraded class. Many of them dress themselves up in old European clothes, and dirty, and ragged, they go about committing all kinds of crimes, and wallowing in all kinds of impurity. They present a picture at which respectable Hindus shudder, and no doubt the thought often crosses their minds.—How would we be, if we were to become Christians.

4. I can only mention one more cause:—the influence of government. The officers of the head of affairs are nominally Christians, and some of them, no doubt, truly so. But the government is scarcely worthy of the name of a Christian government, though it is gradually coming round. Formerly idolatry was countenanced in several ways, and even yet, in the southern part of India, the connexion is not entirely dissolved.—But the course which government adopted in former times, in reference to the schools and colleges for native education, has not been changed, and is most deplorable. We would not ask them directly to patronize Christianity, for that would hardly be fair: all we ask is that it should not be proscribed and forbidden, as in the case at present. A teacher in a government school would open his lips on the subject of Christianity. The Bible must not be brought into the walls of the building. A boy, and he be ever so desirous, must not say anything about God and heaven. The consequence is, that the natives consider the government as opposed to Christianity on their side. No serious Christian will take place as teacher in these institutions. The situations are filled by worldly-minded men—often by infidels. The boys who are instructed in these schools come out of them thorough infidels, both as regards Christianity, knowing nothing of the Bible, but often armed with the arguments of Paine and Volney.

What I have said above is not to discourage. The gospel can triumph over all this, and much, much more. "Who art thou O mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain." Let us not be discouraged, but only arm ourselves more fully in the conflict. Let the missionary be zealous and laborious, let the church be instant and earnest in prayer, and idolatry will be vanquished. Her gods will be forsaken, and her temples will be swept down to the dust, or converted into temples for the worship of Jehovah.

THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OF CHILDREN.

Children are capable of receiving religi-

ous impressions at a very early age. They are then much more readily brought under religious influence than in after years, when their habits are confirmed, and hearts hardened by contact with an evil world. Every husbandman and zoologist is familiar with this principle and turns it to profit. When the husbandman would train a vine, he does not select the rugged growth of years, but would rather choose the tender scion, and transfer it to his vineyard, while its fibres are flexible and its tendrils delicate. With such a choice he finds but little resistance in shaping its growth. When the zoologist would domesticate a wild animal he would not choose one with fully developed frame and ferocity, matured by the exercise of its native habits, but rather select the young, ere its fierce nature has been matured.—Then his task is easy. From these observations we should learn a lesson in reference to our children. Multitudes, who become the subjects of grace in advanced age, in their fierce struggles against early habits, are led to deplore the deprivation of early religious instruction.

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SCRAPS CULLED FOR THE RECORD.

1. Satan drives his victims from presumption to despair.
2. We cannot think too ill of sin, if we do not think it unpardonable.
3. It evinces great hardness to be more concerned about our sufferings than our sins.
4. Impenitent sinners are often not reclaimed by God's rebukes, because they think themselves wronged by them.
5. Unpardonable sin fills the heart with constant terror.
6. God has wise and holy ends in protecting and prolonging the lives even of very wicked men.
7. Rash anger is a species of murder, not indeed of the hands, but the heart.
8. To those who die in Christ, death is not only innocent and inoffensive, but also honourable and glorious.
9. The wickedness of the wicked curses all they do and have.
10. When Christ began to preach, he preached humility—he preached it by example. (Matt. iii. 13.)
11. Those who would rise high must begin low.
12. Christ's condescensions are so great as to appear almost incredible to the strongest believer.
13. God more and more honours those who continue lowly, when their reputation rises.
14. They have much of the spirit of God who feel and see that they have need of more.
15. The purest souls are most sensible.