

Mrs. Kilham set out for Africa in the year 1823, and on reaching her destination found that, through the kindness of the Governor of St. Mary's, things were already pretty well in readiness for her coming. "Very soon," says her biographer, "schools were established for girls, boys, liberated slaves - known as 'king's boys' - and women." For the last-mentioned class, the heart of Mrs. Kilham was deeply stirred. Their ignorance and degradation, added to the worse than brutal treatment to which they were subjected at the hands of men, enlisted her warmest sympathies and most active efforts in their behalf. Her work at this time seems to have been not so much that of a teacher, as of a superintendent of the schools placed under her care and supervision. This while it occupied her very closely, gave her exceptional advantages for personal effort among all classes of the natives, particularly among recaptured slaves, children and women.

Having accomplished the task for which she had been sent out, Mrs. Kilham returned to England, expecting to be appointed to some other post either in Russia or China; and while waiting for her appointment devoted herself to evangelistic effort in St. Giles, London. But the way was unexpectedly opened for her return to Africa, and accordingly she sailed in October, 1827, on a second visit to that land. Of her work at this time she says: "The engagements I had in view in Sierra Leone were, first, the obtaining of an outline of the principal languages spoken by the liberated Africans and others in the colony, so as to form an idea of the number of distinct languages in use there, and to see what prospect there might be of being able to reduce those of most importance to written forms; also to prepare such an outline for elementary instruction in each language as might introduce the pupils in the liberated African schools to a better knowledge of English than they possess." Mrs. Kilham's work also comprehended the devising and carrying into effect of measures for ameliorating the condition of recaptured slaves, most of whom had, in their various transfers from one cruel bondage to another, suffered in credible hardships, and been treated with the most revolting cruelty. Having to a great extent fulfilled the purpose of her second mission, and being stricken with fever, Mrs. Kilham again returned to England, and during the two years of her stay worked in behalf of the mission with her pen and in many ways for the advancement of the Master's cause, as she found opportunity. In 1830 she set out again on her third and last voyage to Africa. "It is remarkable," says her biographer, "that she had a great natural dread of the water, so that to cross the stormy ocean five times on this errand was indeed a crucifying of the flesh. Nothing but the constraining love of Christ could have energized her for her task." On this visit she established a school at Charlotte of negro girls. She had good-sized premises, including two school-houses, one of which was used as a meeting room. Before, however, she could commence the work of instruction proper, she was compelled to clothe her pupils, for they were all perfectly destitute of the commonest necessities of clothing. "But when this difficulty was overcome, she commenced the daily work of instruction aided only by a young, inexperienced teacher, who herself knew but very little English. The work she carried on was threefold: she had first to provide for twenty-seven girls as to board, lodging and clothing; then she had to teach them the rudiments of knowledge; and, lastly, to instruct them in the way of life." At this time she had little intercourse with Europeans, and her spirits were exceedingly depressed at times in this strange land. Still

she persevered, and her school grew; from a newly-arrived slave-ship she received twenty additional fugitives. Most of these poor girls were depressed, exhausted and emaciated, as well as densely ignorant and brutalized in mind.

In the midst of her arduous toil for these poor children, enlarged opportunities for usefulness were continually opening before this devoted woman - more, alas, than her failing strength, scanty comforts, and inadequate supplies could have enabled her to undertake, had she not possessed marvellous faith, by which she was strengthened to surmount difficulties that would have been simply appalling to others less largely endowed with this divine gift. We are told that, "on the relinquishment of the Church Missionary Society's schools at Bathurst, she took over fifty-six girls into her own school, on act of faith on her part, seeing that she did it without consultation with the Society, and while her frame was already overtaxed. Still she said, 'If I forego this opportunity, how can I ever forget the supplicating looks and the expression of bitter grief on their countenances at being separated from those they desire to cleave to.'"

But the end of Mrs. Kilham's course was drawing near. While on the return voyage to Sierra Leone from Liberia, whither she had been in pursuance of the wishes of the Society in reference to the carrying out its plans for the educating of African youths, a violent storm was encountered. Mrs. Kilham became very ill, a fever ensued from which she died, and her remains were given an ocean burial. Thus "the deep lone sea" received to its bosom another of God's faithful ones, there to rest until the day when the sea shall give up its dead, and body and soul be reunited in the image of their glorified Redeemer. The Church bears on her records of mission-laborers many loved and honored names; but, perhaps, not one more worthily so, to those to whom her gentle worth is known, than Hannah Kilham, the devoted and self-sacrificing missionary to Western Africa.

## Lady Dufferin among the Christian Peasantry of Bengal.

By REV. W. JOHNSON, B. A., CALCUTTA.

On the northern edge of one of the great rice swamps of Bengal, and about six miles from Calcutta, lies the Village of Kaurajukur. It is the head station of our Christian villages to the south of Calcutta. A few weeks ago, this village was honoured by the presence of Lady Dufferin, who made a short stay there on her way to one of the stations of the S. P. G., which lies further in the heart of these dreary marshes. The visit to Kaurajukur was merely a call by the way. There her ladyship was to take the little canoe which was to convey her along the unwholesome and unsavory ditches which traverse the rice-fields. The visit was thus an unintentional and accidental honour to these poor people of our London Mission, whose work does not receive much attention from the titled of the earth, and whose existence even is to many of them, not known. The native pastor, however, properly determined to show a grateful appreciation of the interest her ladyship felt in the "poor Christians of these swampy regions." They erected, what they were loyally pleased to call, "a triumphal arch," at the entrance of the village, and another near the pastor's house, bearing the inscription, "Welcome." These "triumphal arches" consisted of leaves and a few wild