

Young People's Department.

THE CHURCH AND THE BIBLE.*



HERE was once a vessel wrecked on one of the South Sea Islands. There was on board a sailor who had been there before, and who knew that the people were cannibals. And when the ship was wrecked and they were cast away on the shore, they knew there was no hope for them, for they saw no way to escape. The sailor, however, climbed up in a hill-top to reconnoitre a little. Presently, his ship-mates saw him swinging his arms in great excitement and inquired what was the matter. He had seen just over the hill, the steeple of a church. That was what took all the fear of trouble out of his soul. He knew that church spire made his neck safe on that cannibal island. Poor Jack that day had reason to bless the missionaries, and indeed there are few people who have not, in some form or other, derived benefit from them. They have brought enlightenment and civilization to many a dark spot on earth and even those who make light of Christianity take good care to place themselves under the safety and protection which it brings. They know they are safe where religion is strong. Years ago a young infidel was travelling in the west with his uncle, a banker, and they were not a little anxious for their safety, when they were forced to stop for a night in a rough wayside cabin.

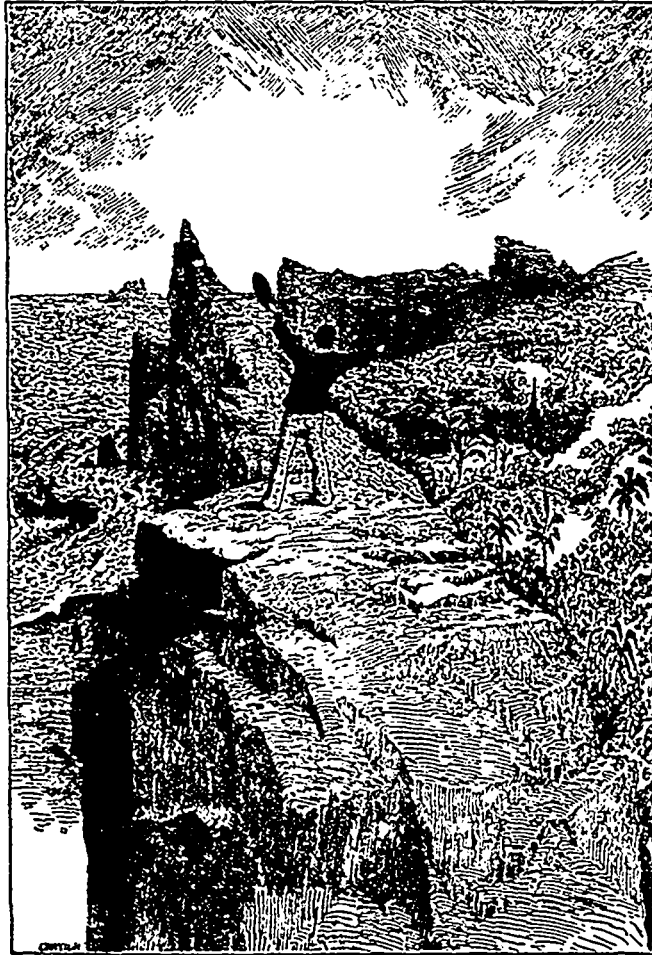
There were two rooms in the house, and when they retired for the night, they agreed that the young man should sit with his pistols and watch until midnight and then awaken his uncle who should watch until morning. Presently, they peeped through the crack and saw their host, a rough-looking old man, in his bear-skin suit,

reach up and take down a book, the Bible, and after reading it a while he knelt and began to pray: and then the young infidel began to pull off his coat and get ready for bed. The uncle said, "I thought you were going to sit up and watch." But the young man knew there was no need of sitting up, pistol in hand, to watch all night long in a cabin that was hallowed by the Word of God and consecrated by the voice of prayer. Had the man been, like himself, an unbeliever, he would have been afraid of him. As it was, he knew that he had nothing to fear from a sincere and devout Christian.

In this way, the Church and the Bible both tell their own story and both proclaim their own strength. How much better, then, the world would be, if all men had a knowledge of the

truth as it is in Jesus! It is this, that the missionaries are trying to bring about. May God bless them in their self-denial and their zeal?

WHEN a Kafir dies the body is placed in a sitting posture near the grave and left there for two or three days, that all who wish may come and give to him messages for their friends who have departed to the happy land.



JACK SEES THE MISSIONARY CHURCH.

*The illustration on this page was kindly lent to us by H. L. Hastings of Boston, whose book entitled "A square talk to young men" has reached its second million, from it the two incidents found in this article are taken.