

HOW THEY WANTED CHRIST.



MISSIONARY in Ceylon, Rev. J. G. Trimmer, writes in the *Children's Messenger*, of a meeting which he and a fellow missionary was holding in a small village in Ceylon, at which nearly all the people were present. He says:—My companion had given a very simple and earnest address to which all listened with eagerness.

When he had done, I put in a few words, the substance of what he had said, and asked, "Do you believe these things?"

"Yes, sir," was the unanimous and hearty reply.

I thought it would be well to be a little more particular, so I asked, "You believe in God, that He is one, and one only?"

"Yes, we do."

"You believe that He made all things, and sustains all things; that good is pleasing to Him and evil hateful?"

"Yes."

"Do you believe that this Bible is God's Word, and that the other Vedas are wrong?"

"Yes."

"Do you believe what it says, that God sent his Son into the world to save sinners?"

And the unanimous and hearty answer was still, "Yes."

I wondered, and asked the question in different forms, making them more personal, "Do you really believe, then, that Jesus is able to save men from sin—to save you?"

"Oh, yes."

"Do you believe that He died for you, to put your sin away—that He loves you now and cares for you?"

"We do."

"Will you, then, accept Him as your Saviour and accept Him now?"

"Yes, sir, yes."

Everything seemed plain and straightforward. Here was a village converted by the preaching of the Gospel, and ready to be baptized. But I confess I was still in doubt; I therefore continued, "If you become Christians you must give up sins."

There was no response, so I added, "You must give up lying."

I could see a smile on many faces, and a voice said, "We cannot agree to that."

"But God requires it. Lying and thieving and sin in every form must be given up if you want Jesus to save you."

"No, no, we cannot," was everywhere the reply.

I went on sadly; "You cannot serve the true God and worship idols; you cannot trust Jesus and Phylarjar. Will you give up these things that He who died for you may save and bless you?"

They would not; they were willing to accept everything but they would give up nothing. They would accept Jesus, but they would not alter their lives.

Remember that Jesus cannot dwell with sin. If we would have Him as Saviour, we must be willing and earnest in our turning from all evil.

GOOD FOR EVIL.



PROMINENT lawyer relates to a correspondent of the New York *Sun* that many years ago, while he was Attorney-General of Missouri, he happened to be in Governor Stewart's office when a convict was brought in from the penitentiary to receive a pardon at the Governor's hands. The convict was a "steam-boat man," a large, powerful fellow, with the rough manners of his class,

The Governor looked at the man and seemed strangely affected, scrutinizing him long and closely. Then he signed the document which restored him to liberty; but before handing it to him, he said:

"You will commit some other crime, I fear, and soon be back in the penitentiary."

The man protested solemnly that such a thing should never happen. The Governor looked doubtful, and after a few moments said:

"You will go back on the river and be a mate again, I suppose?"

The man said yes, that was his intention.

"Well, I want you to promise me one thing," continued the Governor. "I want you to pledge me your word that when you are a mate again you will never take a billet of wood and drive a poor sick boy out of his bunk to help you to load your boat on a stormy night."

The man answered that he never would, and seemed surprised. He inquired why the Governor requested such a pledge.

"Because," said Governor Stewart, "some day that boy may become Governor, and you may want him to pardon you for some crime. One black, stormy night, many years ago, you stopped your boat on the Mississippi River to take on a load of wood. There was a boy on board working his passage from New Orleans to St. Louis; but he was very sick of a fever, and was lying in his bunk. You had men enough to do the work, but you went to that boy with a stick of wood in your hand, drove him on deck with blows and curses, and kept him toiling like a slave till the load was completed. I was that boy. Here is your pardon. Never again be guilty of so brutal an act."

The prisoner took the pardon, covered his face, and went out.